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COMMUNICATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

OBSERVATIONS ON PUBLIC PRISONS.

THERE is, if I am not misinformed, an authority vested by parliament in the grand jury of every county, to raise a sum of money for building a house of correction, and an hospital for lunatics. Why this act is not enforced, it would not, perhaps, be easy to say. The good effects that would arise from it, may be best appreciated by taking a sketch of the present state of those wretched members of society, whose vice, or misfortunes, have consigned them to places of public confinement, and by considering the effects produced upon them, if the intentions of the legislature were properly enforced.

At present there is but one place for the reception of all whom the law deems necessary to seclude from society, the county gaol. Into this the murderer, thief, rioter, debtor and maniac, are indiscriminately thrown; in many places with no distinction between vice, poverty, or mental derangement, than what arises from the pecuniary circumstances of the prisoner. From this promiscuous mixture, the degree of misery to each sufferer must be very greatly increased, and the quantum of punishment enhanced far beyond the intention of the legislature; not to mention the bad effects from such a promiscuous mixture on public morality.

There are, it is true, regulations adopted, and officers appointed by public authority, to investigate and correct abuses. Every prison is supplied with a chaplain, paid by the public. Such an officer acting in the double capacity of inspector and instructor, can do much to diminish the grievance. By his influence and instructions he can, at least in some degree, reform the minds of the prisoners, and can be a constant and daily check upon the Gaoler, whose habits of life, it is to be feared, too often render him a harsh and pitiless task-master. The influence of a Clergyman, vested with this office, extends beyond the prison walls; by his clerical character he has a right to call upon the men of influence in the county, to join him in performing their part of this public duty. He also can make a true and feeling representation of the many cases of unmerited persecution, and undeserved distress, which come beneath his cognizance, and if his private conduct correspond with his public character, his representations and remonstrances will seldom fail of effect.

But, in order to guard against any dereliction of their duty in this class, there is, besides the Bishop in every diocese, who no doubt exerts himself pursuant to his oath, in taking especial care that these clergymen, as well as all others who are subject to his controul, shall strictly and conscientiously fulfil the duties for which they are so amply compensated by the public....there is, I say, an inspector, who is also a Clergyman, appointed by public authority, to visit the prisons and make regular reports of their state, thus being a check, not only on the inferior officers, but upon the grand juries themselves. How far this office tends to improve the internal economy of the prisons, I have not sufficient information to say. Differences have lately broken out, between the inspector and the grand juries of some counties, which have given rise to much mutual recrimination, one charging the other with culpable remissness; the other retorting the accusation, by taxing him with misrepresentation and neglect of duty. Both parties, as is most usual in such cases, will probably be found to have been in fault. The dissention serves, however, to show, that

some abuses exist. Whether the inspector is sufficiently qualified for the arduous and important duty he has undertaken, it is not now necessary to examine. What he is I know not; but I can tell what an inspector ought to be. He ought to be a man fully acquainted with the nature, and fully determined to execute the duties of his office. He ought to have a clear head to discern the abuse, and point out the remedy; a feeling heart to enter into every case of misery, and to excite the understanding to exert its powers; a resolute and persevering temper, to enforce his opinions. He ought to be indefatigable in his labours, never declining through indolence, swayed by influence, seduced by corruption, or brow-beaten by authority. His employment is sacred: a heavy responsibility attaches to him: he is answerable to the public, and to the prisoner: both have claims of the strongest nature on him, the claims of justice and mercy. To answer these he ought to possess all the zeal, benevolence and perseverance of genuine Christianity. He ought to be a Howard, or a Clarkson.

But as a character such as this is rarely to be found, and as a stated remuneration for the performance of indeterminate duties, has generally been found to produce effects directly contrary to its primary intention, by producing inactivity instead of rousing diligence; it would be more desirable that such establishments should have a living principle within themselves, a renovating spring, by which they might, without the interference of extrinsic agents, reform the irregularities of time or habit. If such a system of regulations can be pointed out, not only as practicable, but as already reduced to practice, it will surely meet with attention. The leading men of the country are bound, not only by duty, but by interest to this. The abuses existing in the several departments of government, be that government what it may, are, and ever must be, causes of discontent. This feeling is easily and naturally changed from the ministers who permit the abuse to remain uncorrected, to the constitution which is managed by such instruments. If, therefore, the country gentlemen, who are, in the last resort, the guardians of the constitution, wish that it should retain over the minds of the ignorant and uninformed, only judging of causes by effects, the influence which its transcendent excellence deserves, they should both individually and collectively check and remove the practical defects in those parts, which come immediately under their own cognizance. Were every one to pay attention to those departments, in which he was more immediately concerned, greater benefits would result to the country, than can ever be produced by noisy cavilling and captious crimination. This can only irritate, that would correct. The spirit of reformation, of calm, steady, dignified reformation, being tried on smaller defects, could be applied with effect to greater. A change might thus be gradually, and tranquilly effected, surpassing the most sanguine expectations of the warmest advocate for reform. Even did not this result take place, did the reformation advance no further than its primary source, much positive good would be effected.

With the hopes that some such consequences may ensue from an inquiry into this interesting subject, I shall proceed to give a sketch of the mode of conducting the public prison in Philadelphia, which has served as a model for similar establishments in other parts of the United States, and may be found worthy of imitation, at least, in some of its arrangements, in this part of the united kingdom.

The prison is a building of plain stone, extending an hundred feet in front. In its exterior appearance it differs little from other buildings of the same nature, and is fitted up internally in the same manner, except that all the cells are prepared for the reception of a single prisoner, and the apartments are all arched, to prevent the communication of fire. Behind are spacious yards, enclosed by lofty walls. It is the internal economy which most deserves our admiration. By the new code of penal law in Pennsylvania, no crime is punishable with death, except murder, perpetrated by wilful premeditated intention, or in attempts to commit robbery, rape, or the like. Every other offence is punished by solitary

imprisonment, the duration of which is proportioned to the enormity of the offence. It is not here necessary to expatiate on the superior excellence of this mode of punishment, or to consider the objections which may be alledged against it. Capital punishment has been so long an essential part of English criminal jurisprudence, that it would require a violent struggle against long established prejudices to efface the opinion of its necessity. Yet experience may show its almost total inefficacy. The publicity of the last and most awful change that can affect human nature may sometimes deter, but more frequently hardens the heart: the victim to public justice most frequently meets death in such a manner, as to change the sentiments of hatred or detestation which his offences had justly excited, into contrary feelings of admiration or pity. In every instance, except that which the sagacity of American legislators has marked out for the utmost severity of justice, the punishment is generally considered too great for the offence; and so universal is the abhorrence to the bloody maxims of the English criminal code, that it is not uncommon to see both judge and jury overstep the limits of their jurisdictions. By a well intended stretch of authority, the one becomes the advocate to screen the culprit from the too great severity of the sentence, the other assumes the powers vested by our constitution in the executive, to mitigate, and even sometimes to remit the sentence by an irregular verdict of acquittal.

No stronger illustration of this can be given than cases of forgery; this crime, venial in its nature, because admitting of compensation, and varying by infinite degrees, from the slightest shade of error to the blackest die of guilt, is uniformly punished by death: and it is well known that no hope of pardon can remain after conviction. Yet this certainty of punishment, generally esteemed a surer guard against transgression than severity, has not the intended effect; forgeries are frequently committed under the consciousness of speedy detection, and consequent condemnation; the injured person, knowing the consequences of prosecution, declines the ungrateful duty, and the criminal, though certainly deserving of severe punishment, escapes. Thus, either from the too great severity of the sentence when enforced, or from the lenity of the prosecutor, a salutary example to society is lost, and the crime remains unchecked. In short, every year's experience tells us how little is effected by the spectacles exhibited after every assize throughout these countries. But when immured in darkness and solitude, the prisoner suffers pains incomparably worse than death: he is left to his own bitter reflections; he finds nothing to divert his attention or turn his thoughts from the horrors which every moment haunt his guilty imagination. In such a situation, the most hardened sinner is quickly reduced to a state of repentance.

The regulations of this prison are not confined to simple punishment. The views of the legislators are more extended. They seem to have imitated the great lawgiver of nature, by making the punishment inflicted, the means of reformation. The infliction of the sentence of the law is the commencement of a state of trial which must unavoidably lead to pinitence and end in reformation. The gaol resembles a great penitentiary, and the criminal who entered its walls imbrued with vice, goes out impressed with those feelings and habits which cannot but render him a useful member of the community, How different in this respect from those of Europe!

On the first entrance of a criminal he is obliged to wash, his hair is close cut, and he is supplied, if necessary, with decent apparel. He is then confined in a solitary cell, about nine feet long, and four wide, where he remains debarred from the sight of every living creature, except the Gaoler, who is to attend solely to the necessities of nature, and is forbidden, on any account, to converse with him, except in cases of the greatest necessity. If he be refractory, or if his offence be marked by any peculiar atrocity, he is thrown into a dungeon, secluded even from the light of heaven; this is the worst that can be inflicted on him.

The gaol is inspected twice a week, by inspectors, chosen from among the principal citizens of Philadelphia, and there are always a sufficient number of persons of this description to be found, who make a voluntary tender of their

services, to execute this painful, but serviceable employment. They divide themselves into committees, each of which, for a stated period, visit and examine every part of the prison, and make a report to the inspectors, who meet at stated times to receive it. From these reports, they, with the consent of the judges, regulate the treatment of every prisoner during his confinement. Whatever may have been his crime, his repentance and future good conduct is invariably attended by a proportionate relaxation of discipline. The gradations are as follow; solitary confinement in a dark cell is, as has been already said, the severest punishment known; next solitary confinement in a cell which admits of light; next confinement in a cell where he is permitted to work alone; lastly, permission to work in company with others. The longest confinement is for a rape, which is not to continue less than ten years, or longer than twenty one. For high treason the duration varies from six to twelve years.

All the prisoners are obliged to bathe twice every week, for which the prison is supplied with every requisite accommodation, and also with changes of linen. Those who are sentenced to solitary confinement are fed on bread and water. To the working classes a more nutritive diet is permitted; they are even indulged in meat twice a week; but on no account whatsoever, is any liquor but water admitted within the prison walls. This regimen has been found capable of supplying strength sufficient for the labour undergone, and a more generous diet has been found incompatible with regularity and good order. The working prisoners are distributed into separate apartments, according to their trade; one for smiths, another for taylors, and so of the rest. In each room an overseer attends to prevent any irregularity; the workmen are forbidden to converse with each other, to sing, laugh, or in any manner divert their own, or their fellows' attention from their employment. The smallest resistance to these officers is followed by solitary confinement, and none who have once experienced its effects have ventured to provoke a repetition of it. The women are kept in distinct apartments from the men, and employed in works adapted to their sex. Thus, this department resembles a great manufactory: a stranger at first could scarcely imagine himself to be in a place of punishment.

The mind is not only kept by employment, from imbibing bad habits, but care is taken both by the chaplain and inspectors to instil sentiments of religion; so that on the expiration of his sentence he returns to the world a new man; and care is taken to procure him immediate employment.

One circumstance more is worthy of notice, that instead of being an expense to the country, it produces an annual revenue to the state; such a system requires no comment. It is sincerely to be wished that its principle was adopted here, if not in a public prison, in a house of correction; by its adoption the country would be cleared of a number of vagrants, many useful members restored to society, who are at present its pest and bane, and all this at an expense, which, though heavy at first, would every day diminish until at length it would liquidate itself, and become, as in America, a source of public profit.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE MADMAN'S GRAVE.

IN the year 1793, an unknown maniac, whose dress and figure bore the vestiges of a once better lot, wandered to Ballycastle, a beautiful village on the shore of the county of Antrim. He was sullen, melancholy, and incommunicative: his days and nights were spent among the wild and lofty rocks in the neighbourhood of the bay, and his food was the shell-fish, or the sea-weed that was washed in by the tide. A life of such hardship and privation would have soon terminated the existence of one endued with unimpaired reason; but insanity hardens the constitution, by depriving it of a sense of its affliction, and by diverting the mind from real sorrow to imaginary objects. At certain periods of the month his sullenness was changed to frenzy, he then would groan and shriek as if suffering from excessive anguish, and although the neighbouring peasantry were frequently disturbed by his nightly moanings, yet, as he never attempted

any act of violence, they suffered him unrestrained to indulge his misery. For several weeks he thus continued alternately melancholy or outrageous, until one night in the latter end of July, when the neighbouring cottagers were awakened by the loudness and horror of his shrieks. For a while they continued violent, then grew fainter, and at length sunk in total silence. Early the following morning a fisherman arose to examine a kelp-kiln which he had lit the night before, when the shocking spectacle of the half-consumed maniac met his sight. The wretched sufferer, while wandering on the projecting ledge of a steep cliff, had missed his footing, tumbled down the precipice, and rolled into the blazing kiln, which burned at the base of the rock! His mutilated remains were enveloped in a piece of sail-cloth, and buried in a little green recess at the foot of the precipice from which he fell. The verdure of this spot is rendered more lively by being contrasted with the grey tints of the surrounding rocks; it is adorned by sea pinks and other marine flowers, and on no part of the romantic shores of Antrim does the traveller of taste* feel emotions more varied, or sensations more interesting, than on the spot where heaves the Madman's Grave.

Ballycastle. L.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE LINEN LAWS.

IT is observed in the Commercial Report of November, that the quantity of coarse linens brought to Dublin for sale in the preceding month was not large.

It is to be feared the quantity will be less in a short time, which is principally occasioned by the deficiency of the linen laws; every person must be astonished when he knows that a piece of linen can be forfeited for being forestalled; yet the law suffers flax-seed to be bought up by the opulent, and held over for a high price, as was the case last Spring; that alone has had a material effect in making the linen scarce. Many of the farmers, and more of the lower classes were led to believe that seed would not be had at any price; consequently part of the lands usually left for that crop, were sown with other seeds; it followed that a quantity of flax-seed was left unused.

If the spirit of monopolizing had stopt there, it would not have had so material an effect as was generally thought, great quantities of old flax, being in the country; but a number of avaricious men have stept forward and raised the raw material to so great a height, that the poor and industrious can have little for their labour; and those unfeeling people (they cannot be otherwise termed) very industriously report that it has been shipped to England, &c. for the vile purpose of raising it yet higher.

It is to be hoped the linen-board will take this case into consideration, and make a law as much in favour of the poor spinner, as they have done for the linen buyer, who is very active in having any forestalling of linen punished, yet can overlook the practice of hoarding up flax. Gentlemen of landed property in the North of Ireland, would find it their interest to put a stop to the practice of forestalling flax or flax-seed (if possible) as it is by the profits of the linen manufacture, their rents are chiefly paid.

A FRIEND TO THE LINEN TRADE.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

TABLE-TALK.

(Continued from Page 195, *No.* III.*)*

AS Mr. and Mrs. Revel are personages of some importance, and the notion of the *conversazzione* originated with them, a formal annunciation of them was needful. The other characters will unfold themselves sufficiently in the course of the conversations, with the exception of Dr. Sowerby, whose peculiarities require some explanatory introduction. He had in early youth been remarkable for unbounded inquisitiveness of temper: this is a disposition, which in children, affords the doating parents great delight, and when the little dears can tell tales of the servants, and little master can pry abroad, and pick up stories for home, the hearts of pappa and mamma are enchanted,

*Should *such a traveller* happen to meet this account, and wish to visit the spot it commemorates, it will be shown him by any of the cottagers, at Ballycastle-quay, on inquiring for *Port-na-Gree.*

The Dr's parents, however, thought rather differently, not that they endeavoured to suppress, but to direct this disposition. They conceived, and perhaps not unjustly, that such a temper properly directed, might lead to desirable attainments; they therefore substituted instructive toys, for the common run of foolish ones; in the choice of books, they were rigid in banishing from his little library, the celebrated stories of Cinderilla, the Good Little Boy that grew to be a rich man, and rode in his own coach, &c. and they endeavoured to procure for him such, as while they amused, would also instruct: and as they did not approve of the general strain of the thing called morality, with which such books as the above are stuffed, they were attentive to choose books of travels, or the lives of remarkable persons, written in a familiar style. In conversation with him they cheerfully and with readiness answered the questions he asked, treating him with attentive confidence; and by directing his inquiries, and informing him according to his degree of apprehension, they anticipated the instruction, that others gain from experience or study; so that while they are commencing an acquaintance with the first principles of general knowledge, he had begun to reason from them. Hence, without remarkable talents he made an early progress: when put to the different studies in a young man's course of education, he escaped all the disgust of bending his mind to a new course of ideas, and his acquaintance with the subject he began, though not profound, was sufficient to make his entrance easy, and his continuance pleasant. In the management of his feelings, his parents do not seem to have been equally judicious: he showed a great sensibility of disposition which they rather taught him to cherish, than correct. We may lament over this error in them, while it will, it is hoped, be admitted in some measure as an excuse, that the sensibility they cherished in him was that genuine feeling, which almost instinctively melts the heart of other's woe: which will not turn aside from the pathetic application of silent misery, while the mimic of this amiable quality would shed tears over the fate of a self-ruined heroine of romance, and so exhaust its feelings forsooth, as to have none to bestow on real objects. In him the sight of misery, and the wish to relieve, were simultaneous; nor were his wishes confined to mere expressions; they were the source of kindnesses unnumbered, dealt to the widow and the orphan; the recollection of which, often softened the pain he felt, when "back-glancing memory" presented in fresh woe, the retrospect of miseries, through which he had hardly struggled, and which in the solitude of his closet, he often and involuntarily contemplated. That he had suffered thus, is no impeachment of the conduct of his parents; but the keen anguish which remained, the vivid remembrance of the past, the exacerbation of his spirit, which however showed itself but in words; these prove the danger, as well as unkindness of that system, which converts a man into a machine to be wound up by his feelings.

Doctor Sowerby was possessed of sound sense and acute discernment, refined by literature; he devoted himself to the study of medicine; a study, which, it might be thought, would be repugnant to feelings like his; it would have been so, had his sensibility been centered in self, but he would not flee from a wretched object, and deny the help he could extend, because his feelings were unable to behold such a wretched sight. His feeling was for others, and he therefore devoted himself to that profession. It might have been expected, that the degree of intercourse he had with the variety of characters to be met with at the university, would have aided his natural good sense in correcting the anticipating sensibility imbibed under the parental care, and have served as a corrective preparatory to his entrance on the great stage of the world; but the impression was too deep, and he remained, even after the sufferings and experience of a long life, singular in his character from the bias it impressed on him.

To those, who knew him, he was an object of affection and respect: at his entrance, the smile of welcome lighted up the countenances of the master and mistress: the children were anxious to croud about him....they shook

up the cushion....placed the arm-chair near the fire, and with zealous readiness took charge of his great coat, hat, and cane. To strangers he appeared stern and morose: depravity, whether titled or plebeian, had his indignant denunciation: in his philippics against the wickedness of man (and anger sometimes made him eloquent) he would urge the utmost punishment against a crime which the law awarded: but should the wretch, whom, when absent, he would thus sternly denounce, appear in sorrow or distress to plead his misery, and implore an aid, wrath was fled, the criminal was lost in the sufferer, and the Doctor's utmost strength was exerted in his service.

With such feelings and such a line of conduct the Doctor was not qualified to make friends. He could not curb his displeasure at the defamation and scandal which rang in his ears at every party, nor could he indiscriminately bestow his smile on worth and villainy; no better guide could be required to the estimate of character in a fashionable assembly, than his countenance. The chill of displeasure, or the warm smile of approbation was seen in his speaking visage, according to the persons who addressed him; and he scrupled not openly to express his disapprobation of what, he thought, was wrong. This, most of my readers, especially those of the favoured sex, will condemn; and certainly to judge of him by the rules of politeness, and (so termed) good manners, which now guide society, would be to expose him to certain censure. He would be found to transgress against the fundamental rule of politeness, which enjoins smiles and bows, and complaisance for all, and scouts, as gothic, the notion of discriminating in the choice of guests by internal worth. As to that maxim, which confers on the fair sex the royal privilege, that a lady can do no wrong, this he could not comprehend, for, as he often expressed himself, affectation, vanity, nonsense and slander did not seem to him the less so, because they were in the female character: he allowed, he said, the power of beauty, in giving additional lustre to virtue; but, in his idea, it only rendered folly more ridiculous, and vice more detestable by the contrast.

With such opinions it is natural to expect, that he should be voted *a horrid bore:* the ladies could not bear his preachments, and the gentlemen found fault with his free condemnation of their abuse of time. With Mr. and Mrs. Revel he was always at ease; their intelligent, refined minds prized the subjects he discussed, and his enlightened manner of treating them while their benevolence made due allowance for the peculiarity of his behaviour.

EVENING FIRST.

On one of those evenings of rational entertainment in which they so much delighted, the low state of conversation in this country, and its pitiful substitutes, cards, scandal, or the bottle, was mentioned as matter both of surprise and regret. "Why," said Mr. Revel, "should it be, that while the French and Italians have had the good sense to carry to perfection this rational and pleasing improvement of time, we should be so far behind? When we consider the incalculable value of time, we should be careful in the husbanding of it. *Nulla dies absque linea* should be our motto, and the intercourse of polite people in society is, in my mind, permissible only when the time of meeting is devoted to the discussion of some useful topic. So strongly am I impressed with this conviction, that I would deny myself the pleasure I find in meetings like the present, only that, thanks to Dr. Sowerby and my other good friends here, I think, I reap advantage from them."

Dr. Sowerby....Sir, I have often contemplated this matter, and have felt similar regret. The character of the Irish people now ranks high, we have become known, and have proved our value by our rise in the estimation of other nations. John Bull himself, has been compelled, however reluctantly, to admit, we possess some wit, some talent, some genius; indeed he could not deny this with a good grace, when he considers, that his own affairs have been in a good measure conducted by Irishmen. And I cannot help saying I feel pleasure, as an Irishman, in having lived to see the* slander of that

* From thy Bœotia though her power retires,
Mourn not, my Swift, at ought our realm acquires. DUNCIAD, I. 25.

licensed libeller, Pope, so completely proved a mere slander.

I am gratified at seeing just homage paid to the merits of my countrymen in literature and arms. Yet this only makes me the more displeased with the present state of...no conversation, I must call it. Whenever I pay a visit, my spirits are fairly jaded with listening to the fashionable jargon: I seldom understand what I hear, and often I fruitlessly endeavour to unravel the mystery, when I have made the needful inquiries I find it to be some nonsense, not worth the listening to.

Mrs. Revel....I fear Dr. I shall be accused of giving up the cause of my sex: but truth will prevail, and I am compelled to acknowledge their share of the charge; yet, may not some of the blame fall upon the lords of the creation? If a lady shows a desire for information, or any actual attainments of a literary nature, instantly there is as great an outcry raised against her by the gentlemen, as by the *fair traders*, against the interloper. And when the hue-and-cry, is fairly a-foot, the poor being is like the bat in the fable, denied by both parties, and forced to dwell by herself; this will be her fate, if she were as beautiful as Miss H****. Now Dr. you know admiration is gratifying to any of us, and can you expect a beautiful young woman will qualify herself by informing her mind, to become a perfect Gorgon among the young men, when she finds ignorance and folly, under the name of simplicity, will recommend her strongly. Whether similarity of dispositions and accomplishments be attractive or not, I shall not pronounce, but this case, which daily takes place, seems to warrant the idea.

Mr.R.....(smiling.) My dear, you seem inclined to be severe.

Who knows how long thy transmigrating soul,
Might from Bœotian to Bœotian roll.

DUNCIAD, III. 49.

Subjoined to which is the following Note.

Bœotia lay under the ridicule of the wits formerly, as Ireland does at present, though it produced one of the greatest Poets, and one of the greatest Generals of Greece.

Bœotum crasso jurares aere natum.

HOR.

Mrs. R....Pardon me, I wish to be just, I am fully sensible, not only of the defects, but of the vices of conversation; I wish for improvement, and I have endeavoured to hint where I think the reform should begin.

Dr. S....You are perfectly right, my dear Madam. Frequently, when I have seen the pretty creatures showing their white teeth, using those gestures that would best display a fine arm, a neck, and setting themselves off *voluntarily*, as the slaves in Turkey do, at the order of their master, when he puts them through their paces before the expected purchaser, I have felt my pity for them almost swell to tears. Need I say, my indignation has been equally excited on the other hand, when I considered the conduct of their male attendants. They whiffle about, talk nonsense, grin, and if they show any energy, it is only when they set their faces against any useful coversation. Females are accustomed to look to men as their superiors in information and understanding, and they will naturally think that right, which men approve. The blame, and a deep one, therefore, must justly rest itself, with its load of infamy on the male character.

Mr. R....My sentiments are so much in unison with your's Dr. on this subject, that as Mrs. Revel has, in the name of her sex, pleaded guilty, so shall I as the representative of ours. But yet, Dr. may not this matter be carried too far? It would be exceedingly difficult, perhaps impossible, to ascertain with which party this grievous blemish has originated; but we must all agree that the evil exists, and that the present prevailing notions, contribute to continue its existence; must we not also agree, in this, that though men are severely reprehensible for the unmanly way in which they endeavour to rivet the bonds of ignorance and worthlessness on the female character, the females are equally so, who as mothers and instructresses exert themselves to debase the mind of the pupil by directing its powers to the acquisition of things they call *accomplishments*, which the reasoning mind will denominate, in this use of them, *mere baits for sensuality?*

(To be Continued.)

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THERE is a fashion in literature, and some by the influence of fashion operating in their favour have engaged a greater share of attention, and received more praise than their merits entitle them to. In this predicament, I rank Laurence Sterne. Some thirty years ago, his writings were the echo of every tongue, and the literary world was inundated by writings in imitation of his manner. Many a page was disfigured by the dash which by the courtesy of those times was taken for wit; though among the herd of imitators, it often concealed obscenity, and still more frequently dulness.

"Tristram Shandy," is a strange compound of wit and obscenity. The "Sentimental Journey," was generally allowed to contain pathetic touches; but if some anecdotes, which I lately met with, in "The Repository of Theology and General Literature," a very respectable periodical publication, are true, and I see no reason to doubt their authenticity, Sterne was far from possessing a feeling heart, and consequently in his affectation of pathos, must have been only an actor. Take away his sensibility and what remains of him?

The first anecdote of Sterne is contained in a letter from a correspondent, which gives the following extract from a letter written by a person of the name of Watson, to George Whateley esq. the correspondent of Doctor Franklin, and is as follows: *Jan. 10th.* 1776.

"Shall I tell you what York scandal says? viz. that Sterne, when possessed of preferment of £300 a year, would not pay £10 to release his mother out of Ousebridge prison, when poverty was her only fault, and her character so good, that two of her neighbours clubbed to set her at liberty, to gain a livelihood, as she had been accustomed to do, by taking in washing. Yet this was the man whose fine feelings gave the world the story of Le Fevre, and the Sentimental Journey. Do you not feel as if something hurt you more than a cut across your finger, on reading this? Talking on benevolence, or writing about it, in the most pathetic manner, and doing all the good you can, without show and parade, are very different things."

The second anecdote is contained in a letter to the Editor of the Monthly Repository.

"SIR, *Wem. Shropshire.*

I was not so much surprized as probably most of your readers, at the mortifying account which has been published in your work, of the brutality of Sterne to his mother. For, above forty years ago, as I was travelling in a coach from Bath to London, my companion, a Doctor Marriot, who was his near neighbour, gave me such a character of the man, as filled me with unfavourable impressions of him ever since. Being then a young man, and, like most other young men, being too forward to show my opinion of men and books, I began to express my high admiration of the writings of Sterne, and to pass unqualified eulogiums on him, as a man possessed of the finest feelings and philanthropy. As soon as I had ended my frothy declamation, the Doctor very placidly told me, that I did not know the man as well as he did, that he was his very near neighbour, and that of all the men he ever knew, he was the most devoid of the feelings of humanity, or of every thing we call sympathy. As a proof of this, the Doctor told me that his daughter had some acquaintance with Miss Sterne, and therefore that she frequently passed an afternoon at his house; that Miss Sterne was subject to violent epileptic fits; that she had lately been seized with one of these which was accompanied with such alarming symptoms, as made him and his daughter apprehend she was dying; that they therefore sent to Mr. Sterne, to apprize him of the circumstance, and to come to them immediately.

After waiting for some time in anxious expectation, the gentleman made his appearance, and seeing his daughter agonized upon the floor, and seemingly ready to expire, he coldly observed, that she would be well again presently, and that he could not stop a moment, being engaged to play the first fiddle at York that night. Thus he took his leave, and hastily hurried out of the house. We cannot therefore conclude with any certainty what a man feels from the pathos of his

writings, unless we have an intimate acquaintance with the man himself; unless we can prove from his actions that his high-wrought descriptions are the index of his mind. It is even possible, as the philosopher Moyes asserted, that a man of no feeling may succeed best in giving us a finished picture of distress. How is this to be accounted for, unless it be, that because they have no interest in what they deliver, they are not hurried on by any real passion, they take time to dress it to the popular taste, by ornamenting it with all the nicknackery which it will bear? The man, however, who feels and suffers in a high degree must express himself strongly on the subject which affects him, though he does not go out of his way to introduce any artful embellishment. I intended to have attempted to explain this, but rather wish to have this done by some of your ingenious Correspondents. I shall only observe, that, notwithstanding all the admiration which Sterne's Maria has produced, he could not, to save his life, have written any thing equal to David's Lamentation over Absalom. He would, like Dr. Swift, if in his situation, have been proud and witty, even when deploring the death of his lovely Stella. W. HAZLETT."

If these anecdotes which tend to place the character of Sterne in a new point of view, are thought worthy of a place in the Belfast Monthly Magazine, they are submitted to its service.

A READER.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

AS I perceive you wish to pay particular attention to every subject connected with the *rural economy* of Ireland, perhaps the following cheap and simple method of dying woollen stuffs an excellent and permanent black, without the aid of copperas, may be acceptable to many of your readers. It is extracted from one of the most valuable publications, that the present age has produced; and I have been assured by a very respectable and intelligent lady, who made an experiment, according to the directions, that it is infinitely preferable to the method commonly practised in many parts of Great Britain, and Ireland. By this method, the texture of the cloth is not in the smallest degree injured, but continues to the last, soft and silky, without that hardness to the touch which it acquires, when dyed by means of copperas; besides it is not by any means, so liable to fade, as when dyed in the common way. The method is as follows. "Let the stuff to be dyed be well washed in soap and water, and afterwards completely dryed. Then of the common broad leaved sorrel, or as it is vulgarly called in some parts, *sourack*, boil as much as shall make a decoction of sufficient quantity to let the stuff to be dyed, lie in it open and easy to be stirred; the greater the quantity of sorrel that is used, the better will the colour be; and therefore if the pot, or caldron, will not hold enough at once, when part has been sufficiently boiled, it must be taken out and wrung, and a fresh quantity to be boiled in the same juice or decoction. When the liquor is made sufficiently acid, strain it from the sorrel through a sieve, put the cloth or yarn into it, and let it boil two hours, stirring it frequently. If stockings be among the stuff to be dyed, it will be expedient, after they have been an hour in the boiling liquor, to turn them inside out, and at the end of the second hour, let the whole be poured into a tub or any other vessel. The pot, or caldron must then be washed, and clean water put into it, with half a pound of logwood-chips, for every pound of dry yarn, or cloth. The logwood and water should boil slowly for four hours; and then the cloth or yarn being wrung from the sour liquor, and put into the logwood decoction, the whole must be suffered to boil slowly for four hours more; stockings, if there be any, turned inside out at the end of two hours. Of this last decoction there must, as of the former, be enough to let the cloth lie open, and easy to be stirred, while boiling. At the end of the four hours, the cloth must be taken out, and among the boiling liquor, first removed from the fire, must be poured an English gallon of stale urine for every pound of dry yarn, or cloth to be dyed. When this compound liquor has been well stirred,

and become cold, the cloth, or yarn must be put into it, and suffered to remain well covered for *twelve* hours, and then dried in the *shade*; after which, to divest it of smell, or any other impurity, it may be washed in cold water, and dried for use."

G.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON FASHIONS IN FEMALE DRESS.

MUCH obliquy, much sneer and unbounded severity of remark, have from time to time, been employed, in endeavouring to reduce female fashions to some rational standard, but hitherto without producing the desired effect. Perhaps we may be more successful than our predecessors by adopting a candour on the subject, which they have uniformly neglected, and by fairly laying before our readers (particularly the fair part of them) the advantages and inconveniences resulting from an indiscriminate and ardent pursuit of this variously coloured goddess.

It is unjust to insinuate that the fickleness of fashion, hath been of modern growth. Human nature has been at all times, under similar circumstances, perfectly uniform in her propensities; where variety could be obtained she has enjoyed it; where natural or accidental restraints may have been interposed, she submits to the restriction. The luxurious Roman, who had his summer and winter rings, must have been actuated in his tastes for variety of dress by the same principle which operates at this day, and perhaps, had not Heliogabolus exhausted the public treasury, his fickleness, in point of dress, would have passed without a comment.

The state of climate, or poverty, have at all times induced a sameness in the external appearance of a nation. During the winter season nothing can induce the Russian to exchange his *sable dress* for the *ventus textilis*, the woven wind, that floats on a British loom; and while Asia shall be visited by sultry summers, the turban will uniformly deck the heads of its voluptuous inhabitants.

It is only in climates like ours, which are subject to all the vicissitudes of cold and heat, that fashion is seen to vary the appearance, the costume, and the opinion of a nation at large: here every breeze that blows, every flower that blooms periodically, and every, the most trivial variation of the season, changes the fold of the drapery, varies the form of a curl, or a ringlet, and draws out or curtails the extent of the female dress. It is entertaining to one, like me, who is uninfected by the general taste for variety, to behold the rapid succession of fashions which spread over the face of the country with the rapidity of wild-fire. Some years ago, the females of this island, were delighted with assuming a zig-zag external; a profusion of inflated gauze, decorated the bosom, which was very prudently preponderated by a quantity of cork in another quarter. The cork suddenly disappeared, the inflated gauze was necessarily removed, and the whole sex in a moment seemed as if by common consent, reduced to skeletons; like the vain frog in the fable, who suffered from his temerity, in endeavouring to approach the magnitude of the ox.

The long and taper waist still rested on the female hips, but at length, by a sudden and unaccountable revolution, it vanished and was superseded by an immoderate sweep of train, which commenced at the *scapula*, and terminated indefinitely. The ornament of the head too, was suffering from the same train of vicissitudes, at one time, it was plentifully thickened with grease and flower, which, like the mantle of winter,

> ....." Makes white with other snows,
> Than those of age."

No sooner was it relieved from this nauseous and greasy composition, than it began to be twisted and twined round the head, and tortured into ringlets resembling those of Medusa, as if it were deemed a deformity to allow it to obey the gravitating law of nature. This however was only a prelude to a new and more extravagant innovation, for another edict from fashion cut it sheer off from the neck, and now every female we meet, exhibits a profusion of hair in front, and the spare and glossy locks of an infant in the rere. Perhaps (the taste for invasion has been so prevalent latterly) this may be only the fore-runner of some new fashion; and perhaps ere long we shall see their

countenances covered with flowing locks, while the hinder part of the head shall be ornamented with a thousand sprouting *curlets* disposed in artful variety.

There are two leading causes of the prevalence of fashion: the first is (marvel not good reader) a certain disrelish which we entertain for our own society. And, strange as it may appear, though we are exceedingly fond of ourselves, yet we in general had rather be in any body's company than our own. We soon become weary of beholding ourselves in the same dress, how splendid soever it may be, and to this it is owing, that we so frequently apply to the taylor, the frizeur, the milliner, the mantua-maker, who are so well qualified by their skill, to conceal us from ourselves, and our neighbours. Happy the mortal in the fashionable world, who is enabled to bid adieu to himself once a month. If that unpleasant monitor, the glass, begins to exhibit symptoms of old age, it must be of infinite advantage to us, by the help of the aforesaid manufacturers of youth, to be able in some measure, to persuade ourselves, that it is only *another self* who is sinking into the grave, and as it were to be empowered to destroy our identity of person, when by a fifty or sixty years of close familiarity with us, it begins to be troublesome by its remarks, and impertinent in its insinuations.

The second cause, I apprehend to be a certain servility which influences most of the actions and opinions of men, to be *disguised* in such or such a dress, because introduced, or worn, by such an one, whom we would be thought to copy, and whose manners and reputation, we hold in estimation, is not very uncommon cause of the generality of a fashion. Should a young prince, for example, exhibit a specimen of genius for ruling over a great and mighty nation, by devising some tasteful improvement in the shape of a collar, or the lapelle of a coat, who of his admirers would be uncourtly enough to adhere to the exploded fashion, in preference to his? A Newmarket nobleman is equipt in a frock, cap, and buck-skin breeches, in compliment to those worthies of the turf, his jockey and groom, and in hopes of thus ingratiating himself in the good graces of the fraternity, and obtaining, to him, the enviable character of a *knowing one.*

The classical scholar will readily call to mind the circumstances which gave rise to the dress which prevails even at this day amongst the Persians.

He will also remember the fashion, which prevailed for a short time in the court of Alexander, of holding the heads awry, in compliment to that monarch; as also, by what a dexterous *coup-de-main*, he restored them to their perpendicular position.

The uncouth limbs of Ericthonius, stimulated his genius to the production of a conveyance, which acted at once as a substitute for feet, and a means of concealing his deformity; are we to suppose that the courtiers who surrounded his throne, would, after a sight of his machine, dare to walk on foot, at the expense of his favour?

What Lucian relates of the dreadful effects which followed the plague, which at one time desolated Athens, seems to operate continually with us, in the article of dress. The whole body of females appears at one time, affecting the bulkiness and rotundity of milk-maids; anon, they dwindle away to the slender and delicate form of a Corinthian column; one moment they are all seen huddled up in the warmest drapery, and immediately after they shake off this incumbrance of dress, for one of so light and transparent a texture, that even Eve herself, in her primitive state of innocence, might assume it, without appearing to have forfeited the early privilege attached to her original purity of conduct.

Now this, according to all the rules of fair reasoning, ought to be considered as a kind of epidemic plague, which sometimes makes those who are affected by it, exhibit an uniform kind of external appearance, for it is not to be supposed that those who are for rigidly following all the changes of the fashions, can possibly consider the mere object of covering their bodies, and protecting themselves from the inclemency of the weather, as the real intention of investing themselves; otherwise we should not see so many almost naked and shivering beauties in the midst of

snows, "*coughing their own knell.*" Dress was intended primarily as a defence to the body: variety was introduced for the reasons already mentioned, but that there should at all times exist such an incongruity between the prevailing fashions and the seasons, and that this incongruity should prevail so universally, can not be attributed to any other source than some species of lunatic affection.

As I am not for totally decrying or abolishing a taste for variety, I would only beg leave to exhibit such inconveniences and advantages as are liable to result from adopting the laws of fashion without limitation, and leave it to the discretion of my fair reader, to reject or abide by the statement.

I have already noticed the power a fashionable person enjoys of escaping periodically from him or her self by the aid of the taylor, or mantua-maker. The male sex can, however, reap an additional benefit from this circumstance, which, from their being in general liable to the debts contracted by the other sex, they are justly entitled to; by continually shifting their dress, and altering their appearance they are enabled to evade the importunate visits of the bailiff, and the more ardently they pursue the Protean spirit of fashion, the greater is their chance of deceiving this unwelcome visitor.

The heaviness of time is a constant complaint with the generality of mankind, and such of us as have not the means of relieving ourselves from this intolerable burthen in any other manner, are under the necessity of reading and improving our minds, which requires the labour of thinking; how much more simple and less laborious is the method adopted by people of fashion. A well dressed person can employ at least eight or ten hours out of the twenty-four, in the occupation of adorning herself, in which she can be aided in the laborious and slavish part of *thinking* by a maid servant, hired for that purpose, and other *menial* offices; this, with cards, sleep, and now and then a squabble with the husband forms an impenetrable testudo against the assaults of ennui.

As age increases, this employment becomes more complicated, and therefore more interesting. In youth little more is required than stripping and unstripping six or seven times a day, but as years increase, there are teeth to be taken out and inserted in the gums every day, plasters to be laid over the cheeks, face and neck, to fill up all *ruts* and *cavities* made by a long course of time in the visage of an antiquated fashionable; such hairs as have grown grey in her service, to be carefully weeded out, &c. all these operations consume so much time, that an aged fashionable has seldom time enough on hands to reflect that she may soon occupy a seat in the venerable assembly of ghostland.

Besides, a fashionable dress is evident to the meanest capacity, and requires no great mental exertion in the acquirement; whereas, the wretched substitute, adopted by the poorer ranks, the improvement of the mind, demands a toil and a perseverance, which might very reasonably be supposed calculated to drive a fashionable personage to downright desperation; a plain and undeniable proof that study and the improvement of the mind is an *unnatural* succedaneum for fashionable attire.

Madame Woollstonecroft, I think, has pronounced shame to be a proof of a knowledge of guilt; I must confess this to be a signal proof of that good lady's skill in the unsound parts of human nature, as we read in a little book, which I believe she never had recourse to, that a distant female relation of hers and her husband were once upon a time naked, and were ashamed. From this it appears, what the learned authoress would insinuate, that shame and guilt are contemporary. If this be true, viz. that shame is a proof of guilt, it must be equally true that (changing only the *materia* of the proposition) want of shame *alias*, *shamelessness*, is a proof of the absence of guilt.

Now this circumstance must in after ages afford a strong presumptive proof of the innocence of the manners of the present day. When it shall be recorded that the females have been *quam proxime* naked without exhibiting the least symptoms of shame, and by consequence of guilt, in this respect I consider the present fashionable mode of dressing as an invaluable possession,

and in fact (to use a *strong* expression) this *nakedness of dress* must (provided Madam W's reasoning be right) form an impenetrable *cloak* against the detection of the vices of the present day.

I must, however, warn my fair readers of one unpleasant consequence resulting from the present fashions: our climate is almost proverbially unsteady, which may frequently make the dress suitable for the meridian heat, a source of disease and death, when continued to be adopted without alteration, during the whole twenty-four hours of revelry and dissipation; a source of inconvenience and disappointment this, which is to be seriously regretted by every true fashionable. How many delightful opportunities of giving a husband an additional title, to distinguish him from the common *herd* of society, have been lost by the unlucky interference of a severe *twinge* of the rheumatism! How many charming *Dejeunés* have been given up to the imperious commands of the tooth-ache and flannel, and how frequently has a feverish cold carried off our fair friends just at the commencement of a new fashion! how provoking! how vexatious!!

I own that the system of painting certain parts of the body, so generally adopted at present, in some measure remedies the ill-effects arising from the nakedness of those parts. It stops up the pores so effectually as to prevent (like the centinel of a besieged town) any thing from going out or coming in, and indeed I would most seriously advise my fair countrywomen either to lay on more clothes, or more paints. Something of the kind must be resorted to, unless the fair martyrs wish the coroner's inquest to return the verdict of *lunacy* in the event of their demises.

It is usual at the sale of slaves in the West Indies and America, to expose the unfortunate victims in a complete state of nakedness, in order that they may be thoroughly examined respecting the state of their health, the soundness of their limbs, &c. Thus every body has a fair chance of suiting his fancy or his wants, and if a purchaser shall have overlooked any defect, he may afterwards notice in his purchase, he can have nobody to blame but himself, as at the sale he was permitted to *handle* and *examine* in every direction.

The system seems to be coming into pretty general practice in these countries, on what principle I know not, unless it may have been considered absolutely necessary for the preservation of society that it should be adhered to, and as the abolition of the slave-trade has threatened to do away the *naked examinations* in the *new world*, we of the old, with a laudable violation of common decency, are determined to perpetuate the practice in our own persons; and, indeed, whenever I see a fair *exposée* tripping it gaily along some of the public walks, I cannot help suspecting her of intending to exhibit herself for examination in the *slave-market* to those who may choose to purchase.

W.

Newry, 10th Oct. 1808.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

THE experiments made by Count Rumford, in order to ascertain whether Caloric was possessed of any gravity, and which have been alluded to, in your last number, under the article Caloric, seem to me by no means so conclusive, as to leave the matter perfectly free from being questionable. The Count, if I remember right, dwelt much on the exceeding accuracy of the balance he used on the occasion, and without intending to imply a doubt as to the care he took in procuring a very delicate instrument, determining the exact equilibrium of the bottles, &c. I do not feel fully satisfied that it was possible for him to be able to decide upon a case of so very delicate a nature, with the help of the very best instruments that could be formed by the ingenuity of man.

The gravity of light, has been attempted to be proved, by a Mr. Winter of Whitby, by the help of a very simple analogy; taking it for granted, that (as in the case of *air*, or *water*) the densities of different fluids, are as their resistances *reciprocally*, and that in the same manner their undulations, or velocities, are to each other, as their specific gravities; thus he found that the weight of solar light, was to that of air nearly in the ratio of 400,000, to 1, and

consequently that the specific gravity of light is to that of water, as 400,000, 000, to 1, nearly. Allowing the velocity of solar light and heat, to be simultaneous, the ratio of the specific gravity of heat to that of water must also be nearly as 400,000,000 to one.

Supposing that the contents of each bottle used by the Count, to weigh 2lbs. Troy, and that the bulk of the caloric capable of reducing the ice to a state of fluidity amounted to ¼ the bulk of the ice, there would be added to the absolute weight of the latter, about the 500 millioneth part of its original weight, which it would be impossible to ascertain by means of the nicest balance. All therefore that can with propriety be deduced from the Count's experiments, is that the gravity of caloric is so very trifling as to baffle the application of practical experiments in proving it.

I am Sir, yours, &c. &c.

Newry, 18th Oct. W.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

ACCORDING to the theory of Lavoisier, the combination of *light* and oxygen, exhibits itself in the form of fire.

To adopt the language of your Correspondent *Mechanicus*, soaring in *the high and rarefied atmosphere of theory*, is of little service without keeping our eyes attentively fixed also on practical experiments; I have found this amply verified in putting the subject of your Correspondent C. D. to the test of experiment. At the distance of 18 inches, from a fire, I this day placed a thermometer in a room completely dark; the thermometer rose to 109 degrees, where it remained stationary. I then threw open the window shutters, and admitted the light of the sun to strike on the fire; and the thermometer most *obstinately* remained at 109 degrees.

A pint of water also boiled on a fire in a darkened room; and another pint on a second fire, exposed to the action of solar light, in exactly the same time.

N. B. the heat of both the fires was found to be the same by the help of the thermometer.

As it is in the power of your Correspondent, to make the experiment for himself, he will be enabled to satisfy his curiosity very easily on the subject. I need not say any thing in addition, but that as I fell into an error, from depending merely on theory, I am glad my practical experiment has afforded me an opportunity of detecting and acknowledging it thus publicly. I am sir, your constant reader.

16th Oct. 1808. TYRO.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

Monstrum horrendum, informe, ingens: stat nomine *Humbug*.

MR. EDITOR,

COMPLAINT is the privilege of the sufferer: I therefore claim your attention, until I state my grievance.

I am obliged to reside in a small town. This, of itself, forms no part of my complaint; as to me, what is termed want of society, presents no horrors. My pursuits are rather out of fashion, and my modes of thinking equally so; as for example, I find little inducement to prefer the insipid gossipping of a tea-table, or what is technically named, *a ghost*, to the interesting converse my inclinations lead me to cultivate "with the mighty dead."

How striking the contrast!....On the one side the frivolous, the perts, the insipid, disgusting with the nauseous repetitions of worn-out witticisms, nauseous even to the utterer, and given through the mere incapacity of presenting better; on the other, those whom Richard de Bury feelingly and not inelegantly describes (speaking of his books) "Hi sunt magistri, qui nos instruunt sine virgis & ferulâ, sine verbis & colera, sine pane & pecunia. Si accedis, non dormiunt; si inquiris, non se abscondunt; non remurmurant, si oberres; cachinnos nesciunt, si ignores."*

* Richard de Bury died in 1345. On the accession of Edward III. he was made successively Bishop of Durham, Chancellor and Treasurer of England. He was singularly studious, and his passion for books rose, as he himself acknowledges, to a pitch of madness. He had considerable riches, and expended the whole in purchasing scarce and curious manuscripts, and getting others copied. The

We can collect from the writers of the last age, that considerations of our foreign or domestic interests, or observations on matters of taste and learning were introduced to heighten the pleasure of occasional meetings: but now the vapid uniformity forced upon society, compels those who would avoid the odium attached to pedantry, diligently to avoid any attempt at promoting useful conversation; and all who enroll themselves in the bands of fashion, must wear her dull pale livery. I have sometimes been a compelled participator in the *polished pleasures* of such parties, and was comforted under the misery of my situation, only by reflecting that I should return to my companions at home with the greater pleasure; just as a man who had been forced through the wards of a lazar, or a mad-house, returns with heightened enjoyment to the peaceful freedom of a rural life.

The pleasure I feel in contemplating this, has insensibly led me from the main object of this address to you, which is to call for your co-operation in the censure of that wretched perversion of the human faculties, called *humbugging*.

The humbugger is the great pest of this town: I can reject invitations to parties, or discourage the intimacy of persons I disapprove of, but the humbugger, cased in impenetrable stupidity, feels no hints, disregards all open marks of dislike, and fastens on his unhappy victim, till he has worried him with *his fun*. You, perhaps, are fortunately ignorant of the qualities and characteristics of this being, as you live where the busy and active would spurn from their paths these drones of existence, and where the brisk current of life can never subside into the green mantled pool, the fruitful matrix of these grubs of torpid existence. As I unfortunately am qualified to give you some idea of them, I shall make the attempt, though despairing to do the subject justice, and shall endeavour neither "to extenuate nor set down aught in malice."

The humbugger then is of the *worthy* line of simulators and dissimulators, hypocrites, liars and slanderers, and forms a separate class from this circumstance only, that he is each, and all of these at different times, without even the palliation of temptation.

He aims at wit, or as it is termed in the cant of the race, *fun;* and the plan he pursues, which is uniform in the aim, though varied in the execution, is to exert the utmost of his little ability to appear as a man of veracity, and then to expose to ridicule the person, who did not know him to be a gross liar; thus founding his claim to what he calls *humour* on *acknowledged falsehood*, and having proclaimed himself that odious thing a liar, he arrogates praise to himself, and erects into an imagined trophy, the monument of his disgrace.

As your Magazine will probably possess attractions powerful enough to interest even the insipid beings I am speaking of, it might be expected, I should address some admonition to them, but not so: that would be a hopeless labour indeed; and when I requested your co-operation, it was not to twist ropes of sand, but to mark this egregious disgusting folly, with your heaviest disapprobation, and thus to deter those, who are not yet stiffened in the vice. For these, I would endeavour to depict a humbugger in the abstract, and hang him up like a scarecrow, in terrorem. I would endeavour to extinguish their ardour for imitation, by pointing out the only requisite for such a pursuit: not any virtue, not any talent, not mere insipidity of character; but a total negation of all that is meritorious, and an actual acquirement of that, which is uniformly and justly abhorred by men of principle, namely lying. The humbugger must totally discard all reverence for truth, and be anxious to preserve so much of the *appearance* of it only, as will further his purposes. He must endeavour to become frontless. Intellect is unne-

above quotation contains an animated description of his opinion concerning his books. "These are teachers, who instruct without rod or scourge; without noise or passion; without food or wages: if you visit them, they sleep not; if you want them, they do not hide themselves; should you mistake their meaning, they do not complain; neither do they laugh at you, if you be ignorant."

cessary, for the mere fool can coin a lie; and a lie is the beginning and end of a humbug. Intellect indeed would be an insuperable obstacle in this *honourable* course, as it would chidingly and incessantly suggest the baseness, as well as meanness of it, together with the incurable contempt, with which through it every qualification in the character becomes infected. I would now ask those, who seem commencing their imitative career, is such a character desirable? are lies honourable? or, is that to be imitated, which by openly violating the fundamental principles of morality, proclaims the last stage of besotted folly?

It appears fully, hence, that the humbugger is, in the perfection of the character, a liar, foolish, stupid, and idle. This surely is no enviable character; and to a man, who feels the charms of truth, there must be much annoyance in beholding them so neglected.

The displeasure, which is usually felt by those, who are the object of this wretched burlesque of wit, ought to be exchanged for laughter, as certainly *the joke*, if *there be any*, in such things, is against the person who is anxious to prove himself worthless, and not against him, who, ignorant of the *joker's* real character, has received him as worthy. Consistently with this view, when I began the consideration of the subject, I had resolved on treating it in a ludicrous manner, and devising some ridiculous nickname that might stick to the *worthy joker* and make him an object of just notoriety.

But if we consider the matter with due seriousness, we should rather feel compassion for those wretched creatures when we see them abuse the gifts of providence, and pervert to the service of folly and actual vice, what was intended to lead them to the acquirement of lasting advantages. Reason was given to man to guide him in his duty, and not by its perversion to be subservient to the purposes of depravity.

Let me have the sanction of your opinion on this subject, and then I shall have a hope, that some attention will be paid to these well meant representations of your friend and servant.

Rockville. MOROMASTIX.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THOUGHTS ON THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

THE Printing Press has been justly stiled, "the vehicle of all knowledge:" a Spanish gentleman travelling through England a few years ago, upon hearing of the cruel and harsh treatment in prison, that some Englishmen endured, for political publications, observed how far more humane it would be to prevent the obnoxious publications, than to permit them to be printed, and then punish the persons concerned; but an Englishman, who was present, replied, "this would be too open a violation of the liberty of the Press."* the Spaniard, no doubt, thought that the government of his country ordered things better than to have the name of the liberty of the press, and then make truth a libel.

The Emperor, Napoleon, has locked up the French press, except when hostile manifestoes are to be issued: then, indeed, there is a form of consultation in the cabinet. The senate, the hall of legislature, the tribunate, all ring with denunciations against the unhappy prince that he is about to dethrone; and even the ministers of the altar are obliged to join in the cry of war. The passions of the people of that country so easily excited, are roused to frenzy.

There can be no stronger proof of the want of the liberty of the press in France, than what has been lately exhibited to our view with respect to Spanish affairs; an insurrection which the Moniteur now tells us broke out in May, was not noticed in that paper, until the 6th of September, when the details of the French army's operations during four months, are given to us by order of the government. It appears that our late governor general of India† the

* See Espriella's Letters from England.

† See a series of letters, addressed to the Marquis of Wellesley, late governor general of India, including a correspondence with the government of

Marquis Wellesley issued an edict to regulate the publication of Newspapers, which placed them under restrictions similar to the Paris papers. One of the regulations of the Marquis was, that "no paper shall be published at all, until it shall have been previously inspected, by the secretary to the government, or by a person authorized by him for that purpose." The secretaries are to be guided by rules, in revising the newspapers, part of which we have here transcribed to show a specimen of them: "they are to prevent the publication of all observations on the *state of public credit*, or the *revenues* or *finances* of the company; all observations respecting the embarkation of troops, stores, specie, respecting naval or military preparations, respecting the destination, or expectation of any ships; all alterations respecting the *conduct of government, or any of its officers, civil or military, marine, commercial, or judicial*; all statements with regard to the *probability of war or peace* with any of the native powers. They are to prevent the re-publication of such passages from the *European news-papers* as may tend to *affect* the *influence* and *credit* of the *British power with the native states.*"* This thraldom of the press, has assisted the British government, in India, to make and unmake Princes, as well as it has assisted the ruler of France in the same pursuit in Europe; and the Marquis of Wellesley has been accused of cruel treatment to some of the native princes. By Mr. Pitt's bill, "the governor, or president of the council, may, upon his single pleasure, seize and secure any British subject in India, of whatever rank or situation, and upon the accusation of only one person, cause him to be thrown on shipboard, or imprisoned, *until there shall be a convenient opportunity* of sending him to England." This act of parliament was no doubt called a strong measure, but it is a sure symptom of a weak and feeble government. Those writers who seem to be acquainted with the oude transaction, represent it in such a manner as to excite the indignation of their readers against the oppressors of that oppressed Prince. The conduct of the government of Madras, in raising to the Musnerd of the Carnatic a more distant branch of the reigning family, in exclusion of the legitimate successor, has been characterized by Mr. Sheridan, "as one of the most unjust, inhuman, and atrocious acts that ever stained the honour of the British name, in India: yet the documents, on which this charge is founded, have lain for years on the table of the House of Commons, without any decision having been founded on them; a charge which involves the character of the East India Company, and its servants, the credit of the government, the vigilance of the Parliament, and the honour of the Nation.*

The cruel exclusion of this lawful prince, is called to our own mind by the late transactions of Bonaparte in Spain; the same lawless and unprincipled ambition marks both; in both cases flimsy and absurd pretexts were used to facilitate those acts; the one blames French influence and intrigue in Hindostan, the other says that English gold, and the agents of England have caused all the misfortunes of Spain: both point out the happy advantages that must result from their system. In all the revolutions in India, a change of dynasty is the only change for the people, there is no amelioration of their condition; this also resembles the plan of Napoleon. The cruel and oppressive treatment which an Indian prince received, was attempted to be justified by Mr. Dundass (now Lord Melville) upon the pretext that he was not the legitimate successor, and now the French Emperor adopts the same plan, by getting the queen of Spain to bastardize Ferdinand, and the French press is shut up to answer these purposes in the same manner that the Marquis Wellesley ordered the press

Bengal; and a narrative of transactions, involving the annihilation of the personal freedom of the subject, and the extinction of the liberty of the press, in India. By Charles Maclean, M. D.

* See Monthly Review, for November 1806.

* See the Carnatic question in a letter to a member of Parliament, and the remarks of the Monthly Review.

in India to be shut up to answer the like purposes; no wonder then that the family of Napoleon, as well as the civil and military officers of India, should have equipages shining like meteors, and mansions rising like exhalations. J. P.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ACCOUNT OF THE AFRICAN INSTITUTION.

WE willingly lend our aid to give publicity in our pages to the following benevolent plan, to make some restitution to an injured race, long the victims to a cruel commerce. Such a plan is like a light seen at a distance, in a dark night, to cheer a weary traveller amid the severities of a winter tempest. It is a bright ray in the history of man, who is too often led astray by his passions, and his sordid interests.

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Vice-Presidents.

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His Grace the Duke of Grafton
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A number of Individuals deeply impressed with a sense of the enormous wrongs which the natives of Africa have suffered in their intercourse with Europe; and actuated by a desire to repair those wrongs, as well as by general feelings of benevolence, have been anxious to adopt such measures as may seem best calculated to promote their civilization and happiness. They, have, therefore formed themselves into a Society for that purpose, called the African Institution, and they earnestly solicit the aid of the humane and benevolent, in every part of the kingdom, in furtherance of their design.

The Abolition of the Slave Trade hitherto carried on by Great Britain, America, and Denmark, will, in a considerable degree remove the barrier which has so long obstructed the natural course of social improvement in Africa, and thus open a way for introducing the comforts and arts of a more civilized state of Society. The happiest effects may also be reasonably anticipated from diffusing useful knowledge, and exciting industry among the inhabitants of Africa; and from obtaining and circulating throughout this country, more ample and authentic information concerning the agricultural and commercial faculties of that

vast Continent; and through the judicious prosecution of such endeavours, it may be fairly hoped, that, in the room of that traffic, by which Africa has been so long degraded, a legitimate and far more extended commerce will ultimately be established, beneficial alike to the natives of Africa, and to the manufacturers of Great Britain and Ireland. The present period, it may further be remarked, is eminently fitted for prosecuting these benevolent designs; since the suspension, during the war, of that large share of the Slave Trade, which has commonly been carried on by France, Spain, and Holland, will, when combined with the effect of the abolition laws of Great Britain, America, and Denmark, produce nearly the entire cessation of that traffic, along a line of coast extending between two and three thousand miles in length, and thereby afford a peculiarly favourable opportunity for giving a new direction to the industry and commerce of Africa.

To prevent misconception concerning the views and measures of the African Institution, it may be proper to state, that it is the Society's fixed determination not to undertake any religious missions, and not to engage in commercial speculations. The Society is aware that there already exist several most respectable Institutions, formed for the diffusion of Christianity, and means not to encroach on their province. It will be the duty and care of the Society, in the first instance, to watch over the execution of the laws, recently enacted in this and other countries for abolishing the African Slave Trade; to endeavour to prevent the infraction of those laws, and from time to time to suggest any means by which they may be rendered more effectual to their objects; and likewise to do all in their power, by communicating information, and by other appropriate methods, to promote the abolition of the African Slave Trade, by foreign nations.

The farther means which it is proposed to employ for the purpose of promoting civilization and improvement in Africa, are of the following kind.

1. To collect and diffuse, throughout this country, accurate information respecting the natural productions of Africa, and, in general, respecting the agricultural and commercial capacities of the African Continent, and the intellectual, moral, and political condition of its inhabitants.

2. To promote the instruction of the Africans in letters and in useful knowledge, and to cultivate a friendly connection with the natives of that Continent.

3. To endeavour to enlighten the minds of the Africans with respect to their true interests, and to diffuse information amongst them, respecting the means whereby they may improve the present opportunity of substituting a beneficial commerce in place of the Slave trade.

4. To introduce amongst them such of the improvements and useful arts of Europe as are suited to their condition.

5. To promote the cultivation of the African soil, not only by exciting and directing the industry of the natives, but by furnishing, where it may appear advantageous to do so, useful seeds and plants, and implements of husbandry.

6. To introduce amongst the inhabitants beneficial medical discoveries.

7. To obtain a knowledge of the principal languages of Africa, and, as has already been found to be practicable, to reduce them to writing, with a view to facilitate the diffusion of information among the natives of that country.

8. To employ suitable agents and establish correspondences as shall appear adviseable, and to encourage individual enterprize and exertion in promoting any of the purposes of the Institution.

The benefits to be conferred on Africa by the efforts of this Institution must so obviously depend on the extent of the pecuniary funds which may be obtained, that it seems hardly necessary to urge on those who feel the force of what has been already said, the importance of an early contribution. The Society has already engaged in measures with a view to the improvement of Africa,*

* These measures are fully stated in

to which their present funds are barely adequate; and without a very considerable enlargement of them, they will be obliged to forego many opportunities of attempting to advance the happiness and civilization of Africa.

Nor ought the benefits to be overlooked, which are likely to accrue to this country, should the Institution succeed in their endeavours to develope the capabilities of the African Continent. While France is employing her utmost efforts to prevent our commerce from flowing in its ancient channels, surely it becomes us to cherish every reasonable prospect of finding other outlets. We have achieved a great and splendid act of national justice, in abolishing the Slave Trade. Let our benevolence also interpose to repair the ruin and degradation which we have contributed to bring upon Africa, and to teach her the use of her liberated faculties, and we may soon discover, by our own happy experience, that in exercising justice and benevolence towards her, whatever may be the apparent sacrifice, we have only been laying a more solid foundation for the enlargement of our own national prosperity.

A subscription of sixty guineas or upwards, at one time, constitutes a hereditary governor; of thirty guineas at one time, a governor for life: of three guineas annually, an annual governor; of ten guineas at one time, a member for life; of one guinea annually, an annual member.

The board of directors is chosen from among the governors.

☞ Subscriptions are received by the following Bankers, viz. Messrs. Down, Thornton, Free, and Down, No. 1, Bartholomew-lane; Messrs. Hoare, Barnett, and Co. No. 62, Lombard-street; Messrs. Smith, Payne, and Smiths, George-street, Mansion-house; Messrs. Hoares, 37, Fleet-street; Messrs. Drummonds, Charing Cross; and Messrs. Ransom, Morland, and Co. Pall-mall; by the Treasurer, Henry Thornton, esq.; by the Secretary, Mr. Z. Macauley; and by Mr. John Crisp, the Collector, 26, Birchin-lane; to whom, or to the Secretary, communications relative to the Institution may be addressed.

N. B. The first Report of the Institution, containing a full exposition of its design, a copy of the laws and regulations adopted for its management, and a list of Subscribers, may be obtained from Mr. Crisp, as above; of whom may also be had, the second Report, made to the Subscribers on the 25th of March, 1808.

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the Society's second Report made on the 25th of March, 1808, and which has since been printed, and will be given in a subsequent number.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE REPLY OF THE COMMERCIAL REPORTER TO J. P. ON THE CIRCULATION OF BANK NOTES.

ACCORDING to the prescribed modes of controversy, to which custom has given an unwarrantable sanction, I might begin my answer by presuming to call in question the sincerity of the motives of my antagonist, and because he has thought proper to express opinions in opposition to mine, that therefore I should asperse the qualities of his head or his heart. But, as I believe his motives are equally upright with my own, I shall follow this precedent no farther than to hint, that probably the difference in our opinions arises more from the point in which we view the subject; he, through the medium of books, and I in the school of experience, where practical lessons are given on the subject, the Change of Belfast. He attaches more importance to the writings of Lords King and Lauderdale, and of Foster and Parnell than I am inclined to allow; more especially as time has discovered some of their *theoretical* reasonings to be fallacious, as I find them attributing the high course of exchange in Dublin, which was then at 17½ to 18½ per cent, to the excessive issue of bank paper, when now with a more extensive issue it has not, for a considerable time, generally exceeded 10 per cent, and is at present about 8½ per cent. I am not the advocate for a largely extended paper circulation, and if guineas could be obtained in sufficient quantities, without subjecting trade to an enormous tax, I would prefer them to bank notes. I cannot subscribe, however, to the

opinion of the writer quoted by J. P. that the South has been more distressed than the North, by reason of the circulation of paper, or consent to obtain the praise of Lord Lauderdale, for perseverance in the gold system at a heavy loss; he erroneously calculates that the quantity of specie has rather increased than diminished in Ireland, since the restriction. Facts are strongly against this assertion; these writers are closet theorists, and the reasonings of such are often overthrown by practical discoveries. I have heard, that at one time during the panic of an invasion, guineas bore a premium, particularly in Hampshire, and probably occasionally a premium might have been charged in London; but I apprehend it never became general, for this very sufficient reason, that the English did not require a gold circulation for carrying on any branch of their manufactures; for I admit, had such a circumstance occurred with them, guineas would have borne a premium. I was in England in 1802 and 1806, and conversed with mercantile men on the subject, but never discovered that guineas bore a regular or general premium with them.

As to the question of guineas being now to be procured in sufficient quantities to carry on the linen trade of Ulster, I appeal to the knowledge of any one, who is practically acquainted with the quantity of specie in circulation with us, for a solution; the premium on guineas now being lower than when they were more used, is no proof that they could be procured in sufficient quantities.

In a provincial circulation, there is always an influx from the extremities to the capital, and from causes which it is not easy to explore, the guineas in circulation have very greatly diminished; so that though the premium is lower, the quantity in circulation is less, and if the demand for them was as great as it was some years ago, the premium must advance most enormously. A higher premium, which in itself would be a great inconvenience would not however restore to us the guineas, which are not now in the country.

I consider this diminution of specie as an irremediable inconvenience under our present circumstances. The procuring of guineas is a heavy tax on trade, and from this tax I wish us to free ourselves. The command of guineas in sufficient quantities is not under our controul. Let us make the best of our situation, for the question is not, whether we shall have a full supply of guineas; that is impracticable, but whether we shall subject ourselves to much inconvenience and expense, to keep up *a partial and extremely limited supply.*

Studying brevity, I forbear to repeat arguments already advanced in the Commercial Reports, or to enlarge further on the subject at present than just to express a wish that J. P. will continue to write his sentiments freely, and I hope they will always find ready admission into the pages of the Magazine. It is by free discussion that truth can be properly elicited. Men will continue to differ, as long as they view subjects through different media; and free discussion without the asperities of controversy, I wish may ever be the distinguishing characteristic of the Belfast Magazine. K.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

DR. BUCHAN, in his domestic medicine, has presumed to say, that literary pursuits are injurious to the constitution, and therefore naturally enough from his premises, concludes that such were not by nature intended for man; allowing his premises, the deduction he makes cannot, with propriety, be disputed; let us however examine how far his first assertion is to be credited. It may be of infinite consequence, to mankind in general, to do away an opinion of such a nature, sanctioned by one who stands so high in literary reputation; against the Dr's. assertion, allow me to oppose the following facts.

Of the number of eminent men, of modern times, in mathematical and astronomical pursuits, I have chosen indiscriminately such, whose names and ages are subjoined. It will be seen that their periods of life have been, with very few exceptions, much beyond the common lot of mortality. Now, if this be the case, those who would be inclined to advocate the

Dr's. opinion, are exposed to this dilemma; either, they must acknowledge that longevity is as likely to be attained by astronomers and mathematicians, as by any other class of men, and that, in this respect at least, the opinion of the Dr. is fallacious. W.

Newry, 8th Oct. 1808.

Names,	*Ages.*	*Names.*	*Ages.*
Fontenelle,	100	Stewart,	68
Duhamel,	93	Hook,	67
Sharpe,	91	Huygens,	67
Long,	91	Bianchini,	67
Wren,	91	Desaguiliers,	66
Casati,	90	D'Alembert,	66
Allen,	90	Kepler,	65
Cassini, J. D.	87	Musenne,	60
Halley,	86	Bouguer,	60
Wallis,	88	Wilkins,	58
Newton,	85	Albert Durer,	57
Longomontanus,	85	Saunderson,	67
Tonstal,	84	Tycho Brahe,	55
De Moivre,	87	Simson,	55
Piccolomini Fra.	84	Des Cartes,	54
Mercator, Geo.	82	Mercator, Nich.	54
Viviani,	81	Bezout,	54
Bernouilli, jun.	81	Clairaut.	52
Emerson,	81	La Caille,	49
Cassini, Jas.	80	M'Laurin,	48
Alphonsus,	81	Barrow,	47
Nonius,	80	Torricelli,	40
Stiffler,	80	Amonton,	42
Kircher,	80	Pascal,	39
Sofler,	79	Mayer,	39
Le Clerc,	79	Cotes,	34
Lilly,	79	Horrox,	22
Derham,	78	Purback,	39
Galileo,	78	Roberval,	73
Delahire,	78	Lewenhoeck,	81
Ozanam,	77	Lauden,	71
Hevelius,	76	Cheyne,	72
Wolfius,	76	Martin,	78
Euler, sen.	76	Oughtred,	86
Newinhit,	76	Reaumur,	74
Nicoli,	75	Camus.	69
Clavius,	75	Baker,	65
Scheiner,	75	Barlowe,	80
Maignan,	75	Napier,	68
Briggs,	74	Regiomontanus,	40
Cardan,	74	Regis,	75
Flamstead,	73	Scaliger,	69
Riccioli,	73	Vossius	72
Regneau,	72	Bernouilli, Dan.	83
Borelli,	72	Do. James,	51
Cassini, Cæsar,	71	Do. James, jun.	30
Ward,	71	Jones,	74
Bradley,	70	Whiston,	84
Schoner,	70	Sturm,	68
Copernicus,	70	Maraldi,	64
Piccolomini, Alex.	70	Petit,	67
Leibnitz,	70	Rolle,	67
Berkley,	69	Hayes,	62
Verignon,	68		

Of the above persons, the ages of Simson, Barrow, Amonton, and Regiomontanus, should not be taken into account, as the first shortened his existence by dissipation, and the three last died, Barrow of a fever, Amonton of a complaint in his bowels, and Regiomontanus of poison; so that, of the remainder, the average age, is fully 70 years. It will not be an easy matter, in any common walk or profession of life, to produce so many instances of longevity, in the same number, taken indiscriminately.

Permit me to add a few interesting particulars of some of the above-mentioned personages.

Of the three Cassinis, grandfather, son, and grandson, the first was born on the 8th June, 1625, and the third died, of the small pox, September, 4th 1784: so that the three generations lived a period of more than 159 years, and which, but for the circumstance, which terminated the life of the last, might have been extended at least to eight or nine years further. The fourth Cassini, in direct descent from the family, is still alive and is in nothing inferior to his ancestors in astronomical reputation, a circumstance perhaps unparalleled in the annals of literature.

Cardan was not only a mathematician, but, what was usual in the age in which he lived, an astrologer; on the authority of Scaliger, his life terminated in the following manner; he had calculated the period when he was fated to depart this life, and not to discredit his astrological reputation, he starved himself to death on the arrival of the predicted time.

As a singular instance of Newton's inquisitive genius, at an early period of life, take the following anecdote; he has been frequently observed, when a boy at school, endeavouring to ascertain the force of the wind, by leaping in the direction of the wind, and the contrary way, and observing how much farther he could leap, in the one direction, than in the other.

Clairault, was able to read and write at four years of age; at nine studied algebra; at eleven was complete master of conic sections, and between twelve and thirteen, had the honour

of reading before the academy of sciences, a memoir on certain geometrical curves, invented by himself.

Berkley's *Analyst*, was written with the avowed design, of proving the fallacy of certain parts of mathematics, and that mathematicians are as liable to give credence to as incomprehensible doctrines, as are to be met with in Christianity; the design took its risé from the account of Garth's last conversation with Addison, wherein the former avowed his utter disbelief of the tenets of Christianity, on the authority of Halley, who, he asserted, declared the Christian religion to be incapable of demonstration.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ACCOUNT OF THE LATE MELANCHOLY SHIPWRECK AT BALLYCASTLE.

(Communicated by the Rev. L. A. Conolly.)

ON Saturday the 9th of October, about four o'clock, P. M. a large brig appeared in the dangerous channel between Rathlin and the Irish Coast; a signal of distress waved from her topmast, her sails were rent in several places, and her whole appearance indicated the injuries she had already suffered, and her apprehension of dangers, still greater. At five o'clock the storm became more violent, the waves broke furiously against the steep cliffs, that rise along this bold shore, the brig became unmanageable, she approached a projecting precipice (called from a ruin on its summit the Castle Point) and destruction appeared inevitable. In this deplorable condition the master and crew, amounting in all to nine persons, launched the boat and got in, although the immense breakers around them afforded but a slender hope of their ever reaching the shore. In a few minutes after the departure of the crew, the brig struck on a rock near the base of the Castle Point.

There is a secret sympathy in every heart, that unites man to man, and that, when strongly excited, shows human nature in its most engaging light, and few have been the instances in which that amiable principle has appeared more lively than in the present; nearly two hundred persons who had collected on the strand, with mournful anxiety, turned their eyes to the crew, to whose perilous situation, from the height of the surges and the want of a life-boat, they could not possibly render any assistance. For twenty minutes did the little boat alternately rise on the billows, and again sink from the view; at length after many an arduous struggle, she approached the strand. The spectators anxiously strove, by acclamations and huzzas, to animate the exertions of the almost exhausted seamen. An immense breaker now rapidly pursued them, it rose above them, it covered them; but scarcely had the crowd on shore expressed their anguish by a groan, when the boat again safely rose with all her crew! tenfold acclamations of friendly encouragement burst from those on shore! The boat was gaining the strand, hope seemed as if to renovate the strength of the weary seamen, and joyful satisfaction was felt by all the multitude, when another violent breaker appeared tumbling to the shore. The sailors redoubled their exertions, the croud for a few moments were silent, it was an instant of dreadful suspense to all! The breaker overlooked them, it raised them for a moment, then dashed the bow of their boat against the sand (for they were now within a few fathoms of land) the boat overset, and without a moment to supplicate the mercy of that God into whose presence they were hurried, all sunk to eternity, save one Swedish lad, who clung to an oar, from which he was extricated by the laudable humanity of Mr. James M'Allister, Mr. Hugh Hill, son of the Rev. Mr. Hill, and Alexander Weir, who at the risk of their lives swam out to save him. Too much praise cannot be given to the spirited exertions of E. D. Boyd, esq. who immediately had a guard of his corps placed on the wreck, and who promptly used every method to save the cargo. Alexander M'Neile, esq. exerted himself in every attempt to save the lives of the unfortunate crew; but his benevolence was only rewarded by its own intent. Edmund M'Gildowney esq. the young gentle-

men of his family, and Mr. Sampson were also on the beach, with several other respectable inhabitants, who could only evince their humanity by deploring a misfortune which it was not in their power to alleviate. From the account of the person preserved, the brig proved to be the Comet of Mary-port, J. Nicholson, master, bound from Nova Scotia to Belfast, with oak-staves and deal planks.

Since commencing the above, two of the bodies have been washed on shore, to whom Captain Boyd had the rites of burial decently administered.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

POPLICOLA TO THE INHABITANTS OF IRELAND, ON THE EDUCATION OF HIS COUNTRYMEN.

FEELING the sensations of a Patriot, the island that gave me birth appears peculiarly beautiful in my eyes. Her fields green, her climate salubrious, her ports hospitable, inviting the commerce of the ocean; her daughters fair, and her sons rudely brave and generous; but liable to imposition from her more polished and intriguing neighbours. I see the culture of a more improved education necessary to refine her children, and render them capable of enjoying the advantages of her situation, her climate, and her soil.

This necessity has been seen, lamented, and by patriotic men, urged on the attention of the English Government in this country from time to time, and plans of education yet in embryo, are said to have occupied the attention of several of the former, as well as the present administration. If ever such a plan shall see the light, breathing a universal spirit, few of Ireland's sons will hail its birth, and bid it welcome with more unfeigned joy than Poplicola.

Waiting with moderated expectation the appearance of such a plan, permit me in the mean time to excite that *national spirit*, which, if aroused to its genuine height, can alone give effect to such a plan, and communicate energy to its execution.

With this view, I call first upon my fair country-women to lend their gentle hands in modelling the young mind. Infantine days, by a judicious allotment, are committed to female care. It is your pleasing task to excite their first smiles....to make the first impressions on their hearts, and teach them to prattle forth their first words; remember they will blaspheme or praise by imitation. To you it belongs, to administer equal laws amidst the nursery groupe....to detect the growing inclination to knavish tricks....to quell the rising passion in the little tyrant breast....to inculcate equal *rights*, regard to *honour*, and a love of *truth*. Early lessons impressed with steady moderation, will prevent parental solicitude in advancing years; act as an antidote to female *pertness prudery*, and *coquetry*, and prevent in young men, the sneer, the taunt sarcastic, and invective rudely uncontrouled.

But in the realization of a hoped-for reform in youthful education, my countrymen must not be idle spectators; your manly avocations admit of less frequent, though occasional intercourse with the growing youth. With them you join in the domestic circle; with them you mingle in the social throng: for their sakes let no word drop from your lips, let no action be performed in their presence that may lead them astray. The nearer they approach you in the line of affinity, the greater will be their proneness to imitate your example. They lisp forth paternal words; they imitate paternal actions. If parents indulge in the cup of drunkenness, or in licentiousness; if they profane God's name, or his sabbaths; if they quarrel, lie, or are unjust, their children will plead their example after they have mouldered in the dust. Irishmen, let your conversation be pure, and your example spotless, that the rising generation may be edified, and your memories unblamed.

Impelled by the purest and most patriotic sentiments, let both sexes emulate each other, in forming the young mind, in leading youth into virtue's pleasing path. This is equally your duty, whether you move in the sphere of a private family, disinterestedly engage in a Sunday School, or hold an office in a place

of local or national education. Let the emulation of my Country be displayed, not in words only, but in deeds. In deeds, substantially exemplified, in pouring in their patriotic gifts in aid of those whose aim is national improvement. I am yours &c.

Templemoile. POPLICOLA.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE FOLLOWING RECEIPT FOR MAKING INK, PUBLISHED BY PROFESSOR ROBINSON, HAS BEEN USED WITH SUCCESS.

IN making ink, if the iron be in excess, the black particles gradually fall, and the ink becomes brown. If a plate of iron be kept in ink, the whole of the inky particles precipitates in a short time: several other metals produce the same effect. Hence the reason why ink becomes bad if kept in metallic vessels.

Rasped Logwood	1 ounce.
Best Nutgalls	3 ditto.
Gum Arabic	2 ditto.
Green Vitriol	1 ditto.
Rain Water	2 quarts.
Cloves	1 drachm.

Boil the water with the logwood and gum to one half, strain the hot decoction into a glazed vessel, add the green vitriol, and stir it repeatedly. After some days, decant and strain it into a bottle, to be kept close corked, in a dark place. The use of the cloves is to prevent mouldiness. The same thing is done completely by the addition of corrosive sublimate. D. C.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

TO MEDICAL MEN.

SINGULAR CASE OF SPASM.

IN the month of October last, a seaman, afflicted with spasm, was sent on shore at Carrickfergus, from his Majesty's Ship, Argus, and placed under the care of Surgeon Aiken of that town. This spasm was a most singular one; on the slightest motion of any part of his body, the diaphragm and ribs were so drawn up as to press on the lungs, and put a stop to respiration for a few seconds. He was sick and faintish, his pulse from 90 to 100, and intermitting, particularly when seized with the spasm; the pain in the diaphragm, abdominal and intercostal muscles was excruciating; the antispasmodics appeared to produce little or no effect, opium excepted, and that medicine merely relieved the pain. It required a triple proportion of cathartic medicine to produce any effect on his bowels. The disease continued for ten days, and he was cured by bleeding and blistering.

Quere....From what cause could this spasm originate? could it be from an injury done to the phrenic nerve or diaphragm, as the man was seized with it immediately after over-reaching himself. S.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

THE ADMIRABLE CRICHTON.

THE history of the admirable Crichton is doubtless familiar to our readers, and the perusal of it, while it may have been entertaining, has only left on their minds the impression, that the extravagance of the narration gave just ground to doubt even the ground work, and almost lead them to deny the existence of the real character. Such seems to have been the idea of Dr. Kippis, who, while he gives his life, gives it with much appearance of qualms of conscience in doing so. To those who may have read the account of this wonderful man, and in the midst of incredulity, have indulged a wish that human nature did possess such a gem, it may give satisfaction to find some traces of evidence, by which the reality of his existence is established; and the list of his works which were printed, confirms the general credit of the narration given of his disputations, as the subjects in the list are nearly the same with those on which he maintained his public thesis. His works were,

1. Odes to Laurentius Massa.

2. The Praises of Padua, a poem poured forth extempore, when to the astonishment of a crowded meeting of the academy in the house of Jacobus Aloysius Cornelius, he gave a specimen of his talents.

3. The Praise of Ignorance, an extemporary discourse, delivered in the same place after six hours disputation, so that those who were present, as Manutius says, declared, that it appeared to them as if they had seen a vision, and not a reality.

4. On his Arrival at Venice.

5. Odes to Aldus Manutius, the famous printer, who was his intimate friend, and an excellent scholar.

6. Letters to different persons.

7. Prefatory Discourses on all Sciences, Sacred and Profane.

8. His Opinion of Philosophy,

9. The Errors of Aristotle.

10. Whether Arms, or Letters should have the precedency?

11. Refutation of the Mathematics.

12. A Comedy in the Italian Language.

The Press of the younger Aldus in the year 1582, gave its last important work, a re-union of the Aldine editions of Cicero's works. The dedication of the Timæus in this edition furnishes the completing proof of Crichton's existence; being addressed by Aldus to him. Grief appears to have absorbed the flattery of Manucci, and as it is a good specimen of the true pathetic we shall subjoin it.

Memoriæ Jacobi Critonii.

Vel mortuum enim te laudari par est, Jacobe Critoni, quem importuna mors nobis abripuit. Quis enim te vivum non admiratus est? Quis mortuum non luget? Ego quidem, te vivo, maximum judicii mei fructum capiebam: mortuo, doloris modum non invenio. Vixisses, Critoni, vixisses, neque unquam te Virgilii patria vidisset. Fato enim quodam, nobis misero, contigit, ut quæ ipsi ortum dedit, Superiore anno (cum nondum XXII. ætatis annum explesses, gloriæ satis, nobis minimum vixisses,) tibi vitam vi eriperet. Semper ego tui memoriam colam: semper tua imago ante oculos obversabitur: semper idem mihi, eris; qui idem semper eris bonis omnibus. Faxit Deus, ut cælestia omnia tibi felicia contingant; qui cœlestia vivens semper adamaris, et in eorum contemplatione totus versatus es. O diem funestam V. Non. Quinctil. Hæc ad te, ex hoc infelici ad illud cœleste domicilium bona omnia precans, scribo.
Venetiis, IV. Non. Nov. MDXXCIII.
Qui te vivum coluit mortuumque observat ALDUS MANUCCIUS.

From motives of duty, we subjoin a translation, but with reluctance, as we feel the full difficulty of expressing the force and elegance of the original.

To the Memory of James Crichton.

Even though dead thou shouldst be praised, James Crichton, whom envious death hath snatched from us. For who did not admire thee living? who doth not bewail thee dead? Through thee when living, I made the greatest advantage of my undertanding:* now thou art dead, I find no measure to my grief.

Thou shouldst have lived, Oh! Crichton, thou shouldst have lived, and the country of Virgil never should have seen thee. For by some fate, an unhappy one for us, it hath happened, that the country, which gave *him* birth, should violently snatch thy life from *thee* last year, when thou hadst not yet completed the 22d. year of thine age, and hadst lived long enough to glory, but too, too little to us. Ever shall I cultivate the memory of thee: ever shall thine image be conversant before mine eyes: ever shalt thou be the same to me: thou shalt be ever the same to all good men. May God grant, that all heavenly happiness may befal thee; who, when living, didst love celestial things, and wast entirely employed in the contemplation of them. Oh hapless day, July the 3d! With prayers for every blessing on thee, I write this to thee, from this unhappy dwelling-place, to yonder celestial dwelling.

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*This sentence, in the original seems to me obscure: I have given what I thought the most likely meaning: supposing him to mean that the learning and intelligence of Crichton, had been of service in directing him. This from so excellent a scholar is a very high tribute.

He, who reverenced thee when living, and dwelleth on thy memory, now thou art dead,

ALDUS MANUCCIUS.

Venice, 2d. Nov. 1583.

ANECDOTES OF THE LATE PROFESSOR PORSON.

ALTHOUGH it is expected that a Life of this celebrated character, whose death has been a subject of such regret to the admirers of classical literature, will soon be published, a sketch of the principal circumstances of it, particularly such as serve to elucidate his character, collected from the detached anecdotes and notices already laid before the public, cannot fail of being both interesting and instructive.

He was born on the 25th of December, 1759, in the village of East Ruston, Norfolk; and in his early infancy gave marks of memory, which has been one of his most singular qualifications. For the improvement of it, however, he was very much indebted to the attention of his father, who, though but an humble parish clerk in an obscure village, had sagacity to discover and perseverance to pursue the best method of laying a solid foundation for his son's future literary acquirements. Beginning in his earliest childhood, he taught his son to make arithmetical calculations in his mind, without any external assistance, with such success, that before he was nine years old the child could extract the cube root in this manner. By this means he acquired a habit of close and solid thinking, and a strength of memory, which adhered to him during his whole life, and enabled him to apply his studies to present use, with a promptitude and correctness so difficult to be attained. In teaching him the alphabet, his father adopted the plan of learning to read and write at the same time, since put in practice on an extensive scale, by Bell of Madras, and imitated by Lancaster. The figure was traced with chalk, and the child taught to pronounce the correspondent sound. This mode of learning caught the mind of the young scholar, and answered a purpose, perhaps not thought on at the time, of rendering him a correct and elegant imitator of every kind of hand-writing.

At nine he was sent to the village school, where he soon signalized himself among his fellows. Even here he was indebted to the indefatigable attention of his parent, who continued to form and strengthen his memory, by obliging him to repeat every evening the lessons he had studied during the day.

At this time mathematics appear to have been his favourite study; an anecdote recorded by himself, proves his fondness for calculation. Returning from school one evening he lost his way, and was obliged to take shelter during the night at a farmer's cottage, whose son, somewhat older than himself, had lately left school. With him he was sent to sleep; but instead of sleeping, they began to question each other about their school acquirements. He soon found that his new acquaintance was an excellent arithmetician, and had attained such powers of calculation as to be capable, like himself, of multiplying nine figures by nine, by the mere act of the mind.

Abilities like Porson's could not always remain concealed. He was first noticed by the Rev. Mr. Hewit, who undertook to instruct him in the classics. Under his tuition he remained till he was fourteen years old, during which time he made such a progress as astonished his preceptor, and made him the conversation of the men of learning around the country. Among the rest Mr. Norris, since dead, heard of this prodigy, and resolving to prove the truth of the reports concerning him, sent for him, and after subjecting him to an examination, beneath the rigour of which most boys of more than ordinary capacity must have sunk, he was so gratified with his answers, that he took him under his own patronage, sent him to Eton, and procured for him a settlement of £80 a year, while there.

While at Eton, his literary reputation continued to encrease, and he became the favourite and friend of many of the boys much higher advanced in the school than himself. He was not only the partaker of their studies, but the companion of their sports and amusements. He even composed a play,

which was acted there by the boys. At the same time he pursued his studies with unremitting assiduity. The solid impression made on his mind by every thing he had once learned, may be collected from the following circumstance. When going to his Tutor's to translate a lesson in Horace, previous to repeating it in school, one of the senior boys took away his Horace and gave him an English book in its place. He was called upon to translate, and his class-fellows amused themselves with the thoughts of his perplexity. He, however, who had committed this author completely to memory before he went to school, knowing where the lesson was to begin, opened the book and repeated without hesitation

Mercuri facunde, nepos Atlantis...

first reciting the Latin, and then the English, as if he had the author in his hand. The tutor perceiving strong marks of astonishment, as well as mirth among the boys, began to suspect something; and inquired what edition of Horace Porson was making use of. "I learned my lesson from the Delphin," replied he, avoiding a direct answer, "That is strange," replied the master, "for you seem to be reading a different side of the page from myself....Let me see your book." The truth was then discovered, and the teacher wisely and kindly remarked to the others, that he should be happy to find them extricating themselves in a similar manner from such a predicament.

Yet, nothwithstanding the powers of his memory were so great, it does not appear that he was proud of them. To a friend of his, who made some remarks on this extraordinary and enviable acquirement, he said, "I never remember any thing but what I transcribed three times, or read over six times at the least: and if you will do the same you will have as good a memory."

When at Eton he lost his zealous friend and patron, Mr. Norris. Shortly after he was atacked with an imposthume on the lungs, which brought him to the brink of the grave, and though his youth, and the strength of his constitution enabled him to struggle against it, he never completely recovered. It terminated in a confirmed asthma. This disease, for which no effectual remedy has yet been discovered, oppressed him during his whole succeeding life, and at length terminated in his untimely dissolution.

After remaining three years at Eton, he removed to Cambridge where he was entered in Trinity College. He first directed his mind to mathematical studies to which he was naturally led by the genius of that seminary, which is most celebrated for scientific, as Oxford is for classical literature; these he continued to pursue with his usual assiduity and success. But from what cause we are yet unacquainted, he soon relinquished them, for the study of antient language, which became ever after his favourite pursuit. In this branch of learning also he soon distinguished himself, and obtained one of the two gold medals annually adjudged to the greatest proficients in classical learning.

In 1785 he obtained the degree of Master of Arts, before which time he had begun to make himself remarkable as an author, by the republication of Hutchinson's edition of Xenophon's Anabasis. This work, undertaken by members of the two rival universities, attracted much notice among the learned. He added some notes to it, but without annexing his name to them. These are introduced by a preface beginning with this remarkable sentence, "Lectori, si quis erit, &c." and chiefly relate to manuscripts either unnoticed or neglected by the former Editor.

Previously to this time he had been elected fellow, when only a junior Bachelor, contrary to the usual custom of that university, averse to bestow honours on an inferior rank. This appointment redounded more to his honour than emolument, as the annual salary did not exceed £100. He now undertook to write notes for a new edition of a very learned work, entitled, "Emendationes in Suidam et Hesychium, et alios Lexicographos Græcos," published at the Clarendon press. These were never publickly acknowledged, except by being marked with his initials. Small as were the profits of his fellowship, he did not long enjoy it. According to the statutes, every fellow at the end of seven years must enter into holy orders, or resign his appointment. Preparatory

to this, Porson applied himself to the study of the controverted points, and after a long and cautious inquiry, not being able to bring his mind to consent to a subscription of the thirty-nine articles of the church of England, he resigned his fellowship. This must be considered as no small sacrifice to a man whose sole dependence was derived from thence. It is said by one of his biographers, that he might still have held a lay-fellowship, without any impeachment to his integrity, had not a disingenuous artifice been used to prevent him from taking advantage of it.

During the course of studies, in which he was thus engaged, he published Letters to Archdeacon Travis, in answer to his Defence of the three Heavenly Witnesses. I. John, v. 7. This was his first avowed publication, and deservedly spread his fame, not only through Great Britain, but to many places on the Continent.

After his resignation he retired to London, but was soon recalled to Cambridge, in a manner highly honourable. On a vacancy to the Greek professorship, he declared himself a candidate, and in consequence of a thesis on Euripides, composed by him for the purpose, was unanimously chosen by the seven electors. The salary of this was no more than £.32 per annum: Porson hoped to augment it by delivering lectures, but was disappointed, as no rooms were provided for the purpose.

In the year 1795 he married Mrs. Luman, formerly Miss Perry, sister to the proprietor of the Morning Chronicle, which paper he is said to have enriched by his occasional writings. He still continued to increase his character by new publications. Among these was a new edition of Eschylus, and some of the plays of Euripides, published at intervals. While employed on studies such as these, a circumstance occurred which serves to bring into view a trait of character hitherto unnoticed. A manuscript copy of the Lexicon of Photius, Patriarch, of Constantinople, which was the property of Trinity College, Cambridge, and had been nearly obliterated by age, was carefully transcribed by him for the press. In the execution of this painful and tedious task, which occupied most part of his time during ten months, he was much indebted to the pains taken by his father and village teacher, to improve his hand-writing. But after having completed a beautiful and correct copy, which might be almost called a *fac-simile* of the original, all his labour was frustrated, by a fire which broke out in his brother-in-law's house. Fortunately the original escaped the flames. On hearing of this misfortune, far from giving vent to any expressions of useless sorrow, he sat down to his desk, and without a murmur, commenced a new transcript equally beautiful and correct as the former.

He continued to support himself in this manner for several years, until by a choice which reflects great honour on the directors, he was elected first librarian to the London Institution. This appointment promised him a quiet and respectable retreat for the decline of life, which however he was not long permitted to enjoy. The death of his wife, which took place in 1797, may be considered as the forerunner of his own. A spasmodic asthma, which seems to have been ingrafted in his constitution by the disease with which he was attacked when at school, now attacked him with increasing violence. During the paroxysms of this painful disorder, he never could lie down in bed, and found his only relief in an almost total abstinence. The effect of this on his frame, naturally delicate, was a state of total debility, which at length turned to an intermittent fever. From this however he partially recovered, when he fell a martyr to an apoplectic fit. Every circumstance relative to the death of an illustrious character is deserving of notice. On the 19th of Sep. as he was walking in the Strand, apparently in good health, he was seized with a paroxysm of the epileptic kind. In this state he was carried by the bye-standers, who did not know him, to St. Martin's work-house, where he lay totally insensible, till about 6 o'clock the following morning. He was not then sufficiently collected to give any account of himself, but was

at length accidentally recognized by one of the attendants at the London Institution, who conducted him to the house in the old Jewry.

Here he breakfasted, during which time he entered into conversation with several gentlemen belonging to the Establishment; They observed much incoherence both in his manner and the matter of his speeches, and fearing he was labouring under some fatal disorder, recommended to him to make his will. He at first hesitated, but at length consented, expressing himself strongly, though sometimes incoherently, on the moral obligation of disposing of our property after death.

He continued to converse there for five hours, sometimes in the full possession of his senses, at others wild and wandering; when at three o'clock he went out and after walking through some parts of the town he proceeded to Corn-hill, where he stopt and looked up for some time at the vane and clock of the Exchange which had been under repair. The singularity of his behaviour collected a number of persons about him. At length the porter of the Institution, who had remarked him, brought him into an adjoining tavern; here after drinking a couple of glasses of wine, the paroxysm and insensibility returned; he was carried home in a coach, and remained in a state of stupor, with very short intermissions, until the following Sunday, when he died.

Few persons had a greater contempt for the practice of physic than Mr. Porson, yet none reckoned a greater number of medical men among his acquaintance. He was attended during his illness, by several of the most eminent; after his death his body and skull were opened. This is mentioned here merely to contradict the silly report at first prevalent, relative to the unusual thickness of his skull, it having been found to be thinner than usual in persons of the same age and habits.

His body was claimed by the university of Cambridge, and buried in the Chapel of Trinity College, near that of Bentley, whom he so strongly resembled. The funeral was solemn and well attended, and several of his former friends and admirers endeavoured to testify their respect by appropriate verses and inscriptions to his memory. The following was inscribed on his coffin:

Ricardus Porson,
Apud Cantabrigienses,
Linguæ Græcæ professor,
et
Coll. Trin. SS. et Ind. olim Soc.
Apud Londinenses,
Institutionis Literariæ,
Bibliothecarius princeps.
Nat. VIII. cal. Jan. MDCCLX.
Obiit VII. cal. Oct. MDCCCVIII.

Richard Porson,
Professor of the Greek language
at Cambridge,
Formerly fellow of the College of the
Holy and undivided Trinity.
Principal Librarian
of the Literary Institution
in London.
Born, 25th Dec. 1759.
Died, 25th Sept. 1808.

To delineate his character from the few documents published, would be premature; but some of the most prominent features may be noticed, sufficent to give a general idea of his prevailing characteristics, and to efface some reflections on his character, which have been too hastily circulated and believed. As a critic his talents were supereminent; and perhaps did we judge by the merit, not the bulk of his writings, we should not be wrong in placing him at the head of this department of literature. In private life, he maintained an undeviating integrity of character, an inviolable regard to truth, and a most determined independence of spirit. His peculiar speculative tenets of Religion are not well known, but in practice he was rigidly correct. Never would he suffer the name of God to be profaned in his presence; and from any obscenity in conversation he turned away with undisguised marks of antipathy and disgust.

One failing it must be acknowledged that he yielded to; but not to the excess generally supposed. He applied to wine as a relief from the anguish of pain or the tedium of debility; he was led to it at times by the indiscretion of friendship; but he was not a drunkard. When alone, he was singularly abstemious. And even in

the social and heart expanding intercourse of friendship his usual and favourite drink was table beer; frequently would he pass the night, with no stronger stimulative to excess, charming and instructing the little circle of his admiring friends without the slightest advance to ebriety. But sometimes the officious zeal of his less discreet companions would supply temptations against which he was not sufficiently on his guard: and towards the latter part of his life, his frame, undermined by the incessant ravages of disease, immediately betrayed those trifling indulgences, which it could ill sustain. Yet, in no moment of gaiety did he lose his reverence for the name of his Creator, and that loathing of obscenity already noticed: never did he swerve from his undeviating adherence to truth, nor ever was he known to betray a secret.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

LINES

ADDRESSED TO THE AUTHOR OF THE FAMILIAR EPISTLES.

(Not before published.)

THOU literary HARLEQUIN!
Whose *mask* brings safety to thy skin,
With patch'd and party-colour'd dress,
Made up of shreds of languages;
A taylor's hell of common-places,
Hoarded for all convenient cases;
Remnants and rags from 'hole of glory,'
And lumber of an *attic* story,
The Critic's cheap applause to win,
By treasure of an ass's skin.

Thy pocket-mem'ry serves to quote,
Thy wit, enough to point a note;
Thy learning, to make sizers stare;
Thy spirit, to lampoon a play'r.

Resolv'd to vent satiric spite,
Yet, pre-determined not to fight,
This TEUCER of the *pigeon-hole*,
Seeks a dark place to save his poll,
Then darts his poison'd shafts below,
With little vigour in the bow.

Without one manly, gen'rous aim,
Thine, is an effervescent fame:
Pungent, and volatile, and smart,
Distill'd from vitriol of the heart,
Thy verse throws round its spitter spatter,
The acid flash of soda water;
No juice divine, no racy drop,
That flames and mantles in the cup,
And shows the soil from whence it came,
Warm'd with the pure Phœbean beam.

Will the soft wing of flying time,
Drop odour on such stinging rhyme?—

O not for such, the hallow'd bays,
To *mem'ry* dear, when life decays.
Not such the verse of taste and truth,
The vi'let sweet of primy youth;
Youth, that with flag of hope unfurl'd,
Walks forth, amidst a garden world,
Beholds each blossom of delight,
Fair to the sense, and full in sight,
While pleasure flows from ev'ry part,
And genial nature swells the heart.

Such scenes our youthful bard annoy,
He blights each bursting bud of joy;
The laurel round his temple strays,
To drop its poison, not its praise.
Such venom in the early page,
What will the *virus* be in age?

A sat'rist in his *vernal* years,
Like the first foe to man appears,
When, on the tree of life, he sate,
And croak'd out Eden's coming fate,
Her blossoms to be tempest-tost,
And paradise for ever lost.

Trust me, thy marriage with this muse,
Not long will drop hyblean dews;
Swiftly *must* change his honey'd moon,
Who woos and weds the low lampoon,
Swift shall his moon decrease and fall,
Succeeded by a moon of *Gall*.
The bile, tho' *splendid*, by degrees,
Becomes the Cynic's sore disease,
Works to the heart, corrodes unseen,
And makes his breast, the cave of spleen;
Till by a sort of moral trope,
The coxcomb turns a misanthrope:
His ruling maxim, and his fate,
Hated by all and all to hate.

Where'er he comes, his atmosphere
Turns the sweet smile into a sneer;
The quick, and ardent spirit of love
Congeals, and can no longer move;
Chill'd to the source of genial heat,
The pulse forgets its mirthful beat,
The flush of pleasure leaves the cheek,
The palsied tongue wants power to speak,
The graces quit their mazy dance,
And stand, appall'd in speechless trance:
The voice of music, at its height,
Its airy wheel, and circling flight,

Drops, disconcerted, and distrest,
And sinks into its silent nest;
All nature dreads the *caustic power*,
And beauty closes up her flower.

Take then in time, the wiser part,
Pluck this ill habit from the heart;
Cast off thy wreath of Aconite,
From Cynic change to parasite,
In velvet sheath conceal thy claws,
And, with soft flattery, purr applause.
Employ thy pen in prittle-prattle,
And still be snake, but drown thy rattle;
For satire still with all his cant,
Has more or less of sycophant.

Come forth, and dare the searching sun,
Nor like the base assassin, run,
Nor still remain, as now thou'rt seen,
The monster of a magazine;
So shalt thou rise to worldly fame,
And borrow a sublimer name,
Than now you share with Johnson's wife,
A POISONER of the BREAD of LIFE. X.

ON THE DEATH OF AN INFANT.

Written by a girl, only 13 years of age.

REJOICE, rejoice, the lovely child,
Has just escap'd a world of woe,
Clos'd are its eyes that beam'd so mild,
Oh! let not tears of sorrow flow.

Its limbs were all convuls'd with pain,
It linger'd till the close of day,
Oh! then a mother's tears were vain,
It sigh'd its little soul away.

That soul as white, as pure as snow,
To Heaven all spotless did return,
Oh! then rejoice, feel no more woe,
It smiles upon you while you mourn.

Ballitore.

AD SOMNUM.

SOMNE levis, quanquam certissima mortis imago,
Consortem cupio te tamen esse tori,
Alma quies, optata: veni! nam sic sine vita,
Vivere quam suave est, sic sine morte mori.

TRANSLATED.

SOFT Sleep, best image of our final rest,
Come to my couch and close my drooping eye;
How sweet with thee, oh! ever welcome guest!
Lifeless to live, unbound by death to die.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE following verses are extracted from a manuscript poem found among the papers of a friend of mine, now no more. The subject is, Remarks on the Poets and Versifiers of this part of Ireland. As in some parts it alludes to names now almost forgotten, and in others, deals out censures in a manner, that many would think too severe, I do not wish to lay the whole before the public; but as the passage I have selected is not liable to these exceptions, and relates to a person, who has excited no small degree of interest, not only in this province, but in the sister kingdom, I thought that it might not be unacceptable. It must be remembered, it was composed soon after the Poet, who is the subject of it, had written his verses on Commerce, which were handed about in manuscript some years before any intention of publishing his works was intimated. Had the book been published, probably the Critic's sentiments would have been somewhat changed.

The latter part has no particular connection with the former, but as it strikes at no particular person, and is merely intended to expose the absurdities of many of those Poets who figure in the corner of a Newspaper, it is annexed to show the spirit which pervades the whole. Yours,

AMICUS.

FROM genius in its mid-day blaze,
Let us avert our dazzled gaze,
To milder splendours turn our eyes,
And view young genius in its rise;
For see, with emulation fir'd,
With true poetic flames inspir'd,
Young ROBINSON appears; a name
Scarce enter'd on the rolls of fame;
Yet on his birth the Muses smil'd,
And hail'd him as their favourite child.
Smit with his dawning infant charms,
They fondly nurs'd him in their arms,
And as they lull'd him to repose,
Their most melodious strain they chose;
Then smil'd to hear the infant bard,
Lisping, repeat the notes he heard.

Hail! reverend PERCY, sacred name,
Wilt thou my zeal officious blame?
Wilt thou the proffer'd incense spurn,
That rises from my humble urn?
PERCY, whose keen research explor'd
The mines with ancient learning stor'd,
Op'd the recesses where they lay,
Neglected victims of decay,
And taught the modern poet's rhymes,
To chaunt the tale of other times.

Thine is the will, and thine the power,
To nurse this early blooming flower;
To move it from the mountain's side,
And bid it blow, your garden's pride,
Screen'd from each gale of chilling breath,
Which else had blasted it to death;
To see beneath your fostering hand,
Its full-blown flower mature expand.

Oh! blest of heaven, on whom o'erflows
The bounties which its hand bestows,
More blest, who to their proper use
These heavenly bounties can diffuse;
Can seek the humble secret shed,
Where modest merit hides his head,
Unbind his fetters, bid him rise,
And soar unshack'l'd to the skies;
PERCY, thy philanthropic mind
A well earn'd recompence shall find:
Each laurel that has bound the brows
Of those who by thy bounty rose,
Shall join to form a wreath divine,
Thy honour'd temples to entwine.

Nor less his praise on whom the care
Devolves this nursling plant to rear;
This meed of well earn'd praise to you,
Respected BRUCE, is justly due:
Thine is the task, the pleasing pain,
Its early budding shoots to train,
Its wild luxuriance to repress,
To feed the growth, yet check th' excess,
Each branch in order to confine,
And perfect nature's fair design.

Methinks, when mounting on his horse,
And panting for the glorious course,
I see thee, by thy pupil's side,
His youthful ardour sagely guide;
Point out the path in which to run,
And teach what dangers he must shun;
His generous courser when restrain,
When urge his flight, and loose the rein.
So when the god, that lights the heav'n,
His chariot to his son had giv'n,
Ere yet the youthful charioteer,
The venturous course prepares to steer;
Or ere the lofty seat he mounts,
His parent anxiously recounts
The hidden dangers that surround
His journey o'er the vast profound,
Instructs him how, with skilful hand,
The fiery coursers to command,
To check their fury, guide their way
Along th' appointed path of day,
Which mid-way lies 'twixt pole and pole,
And gain, at length, the distant goal.

Oh! thou! whose early thoughts aspire,
To claim Apollo for thy sire,
Warn'd by the example of his son,
When thou the same bold course would'st run,
Trust not thy heedless youth, be wise,
Nor rashly scorn thy friend's advice,
For know, though fair and smooth appear,
The path o'er which your course you steer,
Though flowers of various blooming dies
Beneath your coursers' feet arise,
Unnumber'd demons of the night,
Of monstrous form will blast your sight.
See, malice rears his serpent crest,
And aims his venom at your breast;
See envy whets her scorpion stings;
Detraction, side-long striking, brings
Her crab-like claws, and calls on Scorn,
And Ignorance with butting horn,
And all the monsters that beset
The flaming zodiac of wit,
To join united in the war,
And hurl thee head-long from the car.

Let not their terrors tempt thy soul,
To sink beneath their base controul,
Nor quench thy heaven-descended flame,
For ever in oblivion's stream.
But for thy aid let learning wield
Her adamantine sevenfold shield;
Let wit her keenest darts afford,
And science wave her flaming sword,
Before whose blaze these forms decay,
Like spectres from the fire of day.

Shall I a numerous train rehearse,
The ephemerides of verse;
Bubbles, that in the muses' fount,
Are form'd and to the surface mount,
Mere froth, which soon as e'er you find 'em,
Vanish, nor leave a trace behind 'em,
An embryo tribe, unknown to fame,
Bastards, without a parent's name:
Things, which our daily papers use
To fill a gap for lack of news.
Freed from the birch, each little master,
A kind of would-be poetaster,
Feels something buzzing in his head,
The crude remains of what he's read;
So grasps his pen, to write some pretty
Sonnet, in praise of Jane or Kitty;
Or should the kindling glow inspire
His bosom with more furious fire,
He pens a strain, where short and long
Verses in wild confusion throng,
Where grammar, rhyme, and sense contending,
Wrangle in discord never ending,
Perpetual civil war maintaining,
A mass chaotic void of meaning,
A labyrinth, with no clue supply'd,
Our long bewilder'd thoughts to guide,
Where reason vainly seeks a road,
This Babel then he stiles an ode!

How vain, how useless, SUTHERLAND,
The wonders of thy magic hand,
Which o'er the mountain's barren side,
Extends the forest's verdant pride,

And bids an Eden bloom around,
Where nought but bog and moor was found;
These toils give o'er, your thoughts employ,
Your former labours to destroy,
Let every pine, each royal oak,
Yield to the sturdy woodman's stroke,
Spare not a root, but boldly grub,
From towering tree, to humble shrub,
Fir, poplar, alder, beech, lime, larch,
And in their stead, plant groves of birch;
Let these through every vale and glade,
Expand their salutary shade;
Then when our wits their homes forsake,
And solitary rambles take,
To court the Muse, and lose their wits,
To cure them of their frantic fits,
This tree before their haggard eyes,
In solemn majesty may rise,
And as above their heads it waves,
Its dreadful dunce-denouncing leaves,
May seem, with awful hollow roar,
To murmur, "go and sin no more!!"

SELECTED POETRY.

THE DAY OF JUDGMENT.

Said to be written by Dean Swift.

WITH a whirl of thought, oppress't,
I sunk from reverie to rest;
A horrid vision seiz'd my head....
I saw the graves give up their dead.
Jove, arm'd with terror bursts the skies,
And thunder roars, and lightning flies,
Amaz'd, confus'd, its fate unknown,
The world stands trembling at his throne.
While each pale sinner shook his head,
Jove, nodding, shook the heavens and said:
"Offending race of human-kind,
By nature, reason, learning, blind!
You who, through frailty, stept aside,
And you who never fell....through pride;
You who, in different sects, were shamm'd,
And come to see each other damn'd.
(So some folks told you, but they knew,
No more of Jove's designs than you)
The world's mad business now is o'er,
And I resent these pranks no more:
I, to such blockheads set *my* wit!—
I, damn such fools! go, go, you're BIT,"

ELEGY

ON THE SLAIN IN FLODDEN FIELD,
Written shortly after the battle.

I HAVE heard of a lilting, at our ewes' milking,
Lasses a lilting 'fore the break of day;
But now there's a moaning, on every green loaning,
That our bra' foresters are aw wede away.
At boughts in the morning, no blythe lads are scorning.
The lassies are lonely, dowie and wae;
Nae daffin, nae gabbin, but sighing and sabbin,
Eche one lifts her leglin and hies her away.
At e'en, in the gloaming, nae swankies are roaming
'Mong stacks, with the lasses at bogie to play;
But ilk one sits dreary, lamenting her deary,
The flowers of the forest that are aw wede away.
At har'st, in the sheering, nae youngsters are jeering,
The bansters are runkled, lyart and gay,
At a fair or a preaching, nae wooing, nae fleeching
Since our bra' for'sters are aw wede away.
O dool for the order, sent our lads to the border,
The English, for anes, by guile gat the day;
The flowers of the forest, that anes shone the foremost,
The pride of our land lies cauld in the clay.
We'll hear nae mair lilting at our ewes' milking,
The women and bairns are aw dowie and wae;
Sighing and moaning on ilka green loaning,
Since our bra' for'sters are aw wede away.

VERSES,

BY LORD SURREY, ON HIS MISTRESS.

GIVE place ye lovers, here before,
That spent your boasts, and bragges in vain,
My lady's beauty passeth more,
The best of yours (I dare well say'n,)
Than doth the sunne the candle light,
Or brightest day, the darkest night.

And thereto, hath a troth as just,
As had Penelope the faire;
For what she says, you may it trust,
As it by writing sealed were,
And virtues hath she many moe
Than I with pen have skill to show.

I could rehearse, if that I would,
The whole effect of nature's plaint,
When she had lost the perfite mould,
The like to whom she could not paint;
With wringing hands, how did she cry,
And what she said, I know it, I.

I know she swore, with raging minde,
(Her kingdom only set aparte)
There was no losse by law of kinde,
That could have gone so near her heart,
And this was chiefly all her payne,
She could not make the like agayn.

USEFUL INVENTIONS.

An Account of the Application of Gas from Coal to economical purposes, by Mr. William Murdoch. Transac. Royal Society, 1808.

THE whole of the cotton-mill of Messrs. Philips and Lee, of Manchester, which is one of the most extensive in England, as well as its counting-houses, and store-rooms, and the adjacent dwelling house of Mr. Lee, are now lighted with gas from coal. The total quantity of light used, during the hours of burning has been ascertained by a comparison of shadows, to be about equal to the light which 2500 mould candles, of six to the pound, would give; each of the candles with which the comparison was made, consumed at the rate of 4-10ths of an ounce (175 grains) of tallow per hour.

The number of burners supplied by gas in all the buildings, are 271, of a kind fitted up on the principle of Argand's lamps, and 633 of another species, formed by a small curved tube with a conical end, having three circular apertures of about a thirtieth part of an inch in diameter, one at the point of the cone, and two lateral ones, through which the gas issues, forming three divergent jets of flame. Each of the Argand burners gives a light equal to that of four candles, of the size mentioned, and each of the common burners, a light equal to that of two and a quarter of the same candles, which altogether makes the whole light equivolent to that of the number of candles before stated. For this the 904 burners require an hourly supply of 1250 cubic feet of gas, produced from cannel coal, which is prefered to every other kind of coal for this purpose, notwithstanding its higher price, on account of the superior quality and quantity of the gas it produces.

At an average, Messrs. Philips and Lee's mill may be computed to require the gas lights two hours in every 24, all the year. The consumption of coal to produce the light for these two hours, is seven hundred weight of cannel coal, and about a third of the quantity of good common coal.

The cannel coal, costs at Manchester 22*s.* 6*d.* per ton, and the other sort about 10*s.* per ton.

The annual consumption of cannel coal will be 110 tons, and its cost £125, and of the other coal 40 tons, and its cost 20*l.* The 110 tons of cannel coal, after distillation, produce 70 tons of good coak, which is sold on the spot, for 1*s.* 4*d.* per cwt. and will amount annually therefore, to the sum of £93. Each ton of cannel coal produces also from 11 to 12 ale gallons of tar, which amounts in a year to 1250 gallons. But this not having been sold, its value is not stated. The quantity of aqueous liquor which came over in the distillation, could not be exactly ascertained from some springs having got into the reservoir.

The interest of the capital expended in the necessary buildings and apparatus, together with wear and tear, is stated by Mr. Lee, at about 550*l.* per annum. The whole annual expense for lighting the mill is as follows:

110 tons of cannel coal for dist.	£125
40 tons of com. coal for the fur.	20
Interest of capital, wear and tear,	550
	695
Deduct value of 70 tons of coak	93
	£602

The expense of candles to give the same light would be 2000*l.* for each candle, consuming at the rate of 4-10ths of an ounce of tallow per hour, the 2500 candles, burning two hours every 24, on an average, would at one shilling per pound (the price when this article was written) amount to nearly the sum above mentioned.

If the comparison was made on an average of three hours per day, the advantage would be still more in favour of the gas lights; for their cost, including the additional coal requisite for that time would not be more than 650*l.* whilst that of tallow rated as before would be 3000*l.* At first putting up the apparatus some inconvenience was experienced from the smell of the unconsumed, or imperfectly purified gas, but since its completion, and since the persons who take care of it have become familiar with its management, this inconvenience has been obviated not only in the mill, but in Mr. Lee's

house which is brilliantly illuminated with it, to the exclusion of every other species of artifical light.

The peculiar softness and clearness of the gas light, with its almost unvarying intensity, have brought it into great favour with the work people. And its being free from the inconvenience and danger resulting from the sparks, and the frequent snuffings of candles is a circumstance of material importance, as tending to diminish the hazard of fire, to which cotton mills are known to be much exposed.

The only description given of the apparatus by Mr. Murdoch, is that the coal is distilled in large iron retorts, which, during the winter season, are kept constantly at work, except during the intervals of charging, and that the gas as it rises from them is conveyed by iron pipes into large reservoirs, or gazometers, where it is washed and purified previous to its being distributed through other pipes, called mains to the mill.

These mains, branch out into a variety of ramifications, and diminish in size as the quantity of gas required to be passed through them becomes less. The burners are connected with the mains by short pipes, each of which is furnished with a cock, to regulate the admission of the gas, or shut it off entirely when requisite; every main has likewise a cock near its entrance into each room, by turning which the whole of the lights in the room may be extinguished at once.

Mr. Murdoch states that it was about sixteen years since he first made experiments on procuring light from coal gas, at Redruth in Cornwall. In 1798 he removed to Messrs. Boulton and Watt's factory at Soho, where he constructed an apparatus on a large scale, and for many successive nights lighted up the principal buildings there, by the coal gas. In 1802 a public display of the gas lights was made in illuminating Messrs. Boulton and Watt's factory, at the proclamation of peace. Since that time Mr. Murdoch has extended the apparatus at Soho, so as to give light to all the principal shops to the exclusion of other artifical light.

Mr. Murdoch concludes by stating, that although gas from Lord Dundonald's coak-ovens had been often fired before the time mentioned, and that Dr. Clayton, so long ago as in 1739, gave an account to the Royal Society, of observations and experiments made by him, inserted in their 41st volume, which clearly manifests his knowledge of the inflammable nature of the gas, which he denominates the spirit of coals. Yet that the idea of applying it as an economical subsitute for oils or tallow, does not appear to have recurred to the Doctor; and that Mr. Murdoch may fairly claim both the first idea of applying, and the first actual application of this gas, to economical purposes.

Additional notes extracted from the Athenæm for Aug. 1808.

THIS paper of Mr. Murdoch, proves incontestibly what we had often before asserted in our former numbers, of his being the original inventor of the method of using coal gas to produce light; and of the consequent insufficiency of any patents for the invention to others. Mr. Murdoch, would have added much to the benefits he has already conferred on the public, had he given an accurate description of his apparatus for producing coal gas, particularly of the part for purifying the gas, and we have yet to hope he will do so; among other good effects, it would free the public from imagining patent rights on this head.

It is very probable that cheaper methods of making the apparatus may be devised than that used in Messrs. Philips' mill; the cost stated for it is much greater than we could have supposed.

It is to be observed, that though in situations where coals are more expensive than at Manchester, their first cost for producing coal gas, would be doubtless more; yet, that as the coak would also sell at those places for an higher price, the real cost after deductions might not be much greater.

The price of the tar should certainly have been taken into account; we have reason to think it equal, if not superior to vegetable tar for all uses, and that it is only prejudice that prevents its greater consumption. It is said to be particularly destructive to insects and worms, which would render it preferable for many purposes.

FIRE, BY ATMOSPHERIC AIR.

THE production of fire by the mere compression of atmospheric air, was a fact first discovered, about three years since, in France. This curious discovery, has lately been applied to practical utility in this country, by means of an instrument which answers all the purposes of that well known article in domestic economy, a tinder-box. It consists of a common syringe, about ten inches long, and not more than five-eights, of internal bore. At the lower extremity it is furnished with a cap, which serves as a chamber to receive the substance to be fired, and is attached to the instrument by a screw; instead of this cap a common stop-cock may be employed. To use the instrument, the cap is unscrewed, or the stop-cock turned; a small piece of amadow or common tinder is placed in the chamber, and the cap is screwed on again. If the piston of the instrument be now depressed with as quick a motion as possible, the condensation of the air, is so active as to set the amadow on fire.

HEAT PRODUCED BY STEAM.

MR. R. BUCHANAN, of Glasgow, states the following instances, in which heat supplied by steam, has been used to advantage. Mr. R. Gillespie, finds its effects very excellent in copper-plate, calico printing, and for heating calenders at his works. For this last purpose and to warm his ware-house, and counting-house, the steam is conveyed to the distance of above 93 yards.

Mr. Lounds, at Paisley, has for a considerable time used the heat of steam, with great success in dying fine muslins, and Messrs. Lay, Mason and Co. use it also at their bleaching works at Aberdeen.

MESSRS. BROWN, MUIR AND CO. of Glasgow, have found the heat of steam to answer much better than the usual mode by stoves. They formerly gave out their pullicats, a kind of chequered cotton handkerchiefs, to professed bleachers to be bleached, but they never had the colours of those articles in such perfection as they have had since they used the steam heat for them. Mr. Buchanan concludes with recommending steam for warming the bed-rooms of large inns, hotels, large ware-houses and shops, churches, hospitals, and other large public buildings.

IT affords us great satisfaction, to learn that steam has been already applied in London, to warm some extensive manufactories. That of Mr. Oakley, the cabinet-maker in Bond-street, in which twelve coal fires produced but an imperfect and dangerous heat, is now effectually and safely warmed by means of one small boiler of steam, which is conveyed through those extensive work-shops, and ware-rooms, by numerous pipes. It is also, so contrived that the workmen heat their glue by the same pipes. This discovery cannot fail to be attended with the most beneficial effects in all large buildings, manufactories, hotels, &c. as well as in private houses, where coals are dear, or numerous fires are burnt.

Lond. Monthly Mag.

New method of Spinning Hemp, for Ropes or Cordage, invented by John Carr, Sheffield, York.

THE object of this contrivance, for which a patent has been granted, is to regulate the degree of twist in a given length of rope yarn, by determining the rate at which the spinners walk, so as to correspond with a certain number of turns of the wheel that moves the spindles. For this purpose a small drum, about 12 inches diameter, and 20 or 24 inches long, is annexed to the axis of this wheel: on the drum a cord is coiled in the reversed direction of the motion of the wheel, so that it winds off as the wheel is turned; the end of this cord is fastened to one of the spinners, and by his receding from the wheel as fast as the cord unwinds, the object desired, of making the twist bear a certain proportion to the length of the cord is gained. The degree of this proportion will of course be regulated by the size of the drum, one of a smaller diameter will cause more twist in a given length; one of a greater diameter the reverse. All the whirls of the spindle are to be of the same size, and all the spinners employed at the wheel are to begin and end their threads at the

same time; are to keep the same speed, and to form a line with the person to whom the cord is attached.

A patent for an invention similar in its nature has been taken out by Mr. Hull, of Kingston upon Hull. In his mode, a cord goes round a drum, on the axle of the spinning wheel, as in the former plan; but instead of being attached to the spinner, it goes over a pully above the wheel, traverses to the end of the rope-walk, passes there over another pully, and is again returned to the drum, having both ends fastened together so as to form an endless band, on which band are fastened two pieces of red cloth, to serve as marks to the spinners, by which they are to regulate their pace, as it proceeds to the end of the rope-walk, always keeping in a line with it across the walk as nearly as they can.

Description of an Air Jacket and shoes, to assist Swimming; invented by Mr. William Cobb, of Swithin's-lane, London.

The Jacket is to be made of leather or any other pliable substance that will hold air, with pieces sewed on the back and sides, bigger than them, so as to hang loose and hollow, to form a bag for the reception of air, with which it is to be inflated by a pipe fixed to it for this purpose. The Jacket is to be buttoned before, and also to be fastened to the waist-band of the breeches with buttons. It was to have a bag annexed to it called the air receptacle, into which the air was to pass first on its way to the hollow parts of the Jacket. The swimming shoes are made of pieces of wood, of the shape of the sole of a shoe, with other pieces fastened to them by hinges and joints covered, with leather, so as to open and shut like a swan's foot in swimming.

Useful swimming belts may be made by running waste bottle corks, close together length ways on strings, 12 or 14 of which strings of length sufficient to go round the body, will form a belt of sufficient buoyancy to support a man in the water. The strings of cork would be best enclosed in a case of oil-cloth, furnished with bands for fastening it over the shoulders and between the legs.

DETACHED ANECDOTES, &c.

TROUBADOURS.

During the decline of chivalry, that distant adoration which had formerly been paid to the fair sex, gradually gave way to a devotion more tender and less magnificent. The women ceased to be idols of worship, and became objects of love. The times prone to corruption were not to resist their vivacity, their graces, their power to please. Love seemed to become the sole business of life.

The talents which of old recorded the deeds of valour, and the achievements of war, were now devoted to the fair. In every country of Europe, the Poet or the *Troubadour*, was to consecrate to them his homage and his songs. And to the fashions of gallantry, the rise of literature is to be ascribed. Men of genius, and men who fancied they possessed it, resorted to the courts of Princes, and to the palaces of the Nobles; and the praise which they knew how to lavish got them attention and patronage. To make verses was the road to preferment. No lady was without her poet. Nor was poetry the exercise only, of those who wished to better their fortunes: while it was to give riches and respect to the obscure, it was to be an ornament and an honour to the great. Princes, and Barons, as well as Knights and Gentlemen, found it the surest recommendation to their mistresses: they sung their charms, their disdain, and their rigours. Even the artificial tenderness of the poet, often grew into reality; and the fair one who at first listened only to praise, was at length compelled to yield to passion. The adulation paid to beauty, disposed it to approve; complaints led to pity, pity to love.

Religion, which must ever mix in human affairs, is oftener to debase,

than enlighten. It is for the most part a mass of superstitions, which encourage the weaknesses of mankind. This was the case with Christianity, in the darkness of the middle times. The votaries of beauty did not scruple to address the Deity, to soften its obstinacy. In the heat of intrigue, they invoked the Trinity and the Saints for success. The profaneness of gallantry distorted and deformed even the meditations of the most pious. The devotee was to seek a mistress in heaven: he was to look up to the Virgin, with the eyes of a lover, and to contemplate the beauties of her person, and the graces of her carriage. What is still more extravagant, the felicities of futurity seemed a trifle unworthy of acceptance, without the contacts and vanities of an irreverent courtesy. "I would not" said a *Troubadour*, "be in Paradise, but on the condition of making love to her whom I adore."

GEOGRAPHICAL ACUMEN IN A LONDONER.

A Gentleman some time ago went into a celebrated Mathematical &c. instrument shop in London, and inquired the price of a handsome pair of globes, he saw there. A genteel looking young man answered him. In the course of the inquiry, the purchaser asked, what the probable expense would be of freight, duty, &c. to Belfast. "Belfast, sir, Belfast!! Pray, sir," asks this *intelligent* maker of globes, "an't that in *Yorkshire*."

AN UNEXPECTED INVITATION.

Toward the conclusion of the American war, a Scottish member, more remarkable for a powerful eloquence, than for fine English pronunciation, in the course of a speech said, "I will not give my *súpport* to a *cabál*; I will give my *súpport* to administration." This declaration (the part he meant to take having before been dubious) produced a marked sensation with a cry of "Hear, hear," which excited the curiosity of a member just then entering. Turning to old Pearson the door-keeper, who happened to be at his elbow, he asked, what the speaking member had said. "I don't know," replied Pearson, "what he has been talking about: only I just heard him say, he would give a *ball* and *supper* to administration."

MONEY LENDERS.

The arts of these pests of society are little known; among their other impositions on the distressed, they oblige them to enter into an engagement to take half the money they are to receive in goods; promising they shall have them to the full value, and of articles of merchandize actually on sale. Mrs. Wells having in 1792, occasion to borrow 500*l.* in this manner, gave her note for the sum, after the deduction of an immense discount, the interest, premium, agency, expense of writings, &c. she got the small remainder of the half in cash, and for the other 250*l.* they obliged her to take Nos. of Stackhouse's History of the Bible, a thing advertized probably for the purpose of such an imposition, it not being of greater value than so much waste paper.

DERIVATION OF THE WORD CANT.

Mr. *Alexander Cant*, son to Mr *Andrew Cant*, of Edinburgh, who in his Discourse de Excommunicato Trucidando, maintained that all refusers of the covenant ought to be excommunicated, and that all so excommunicated might be lawfully killed, was lately deposed by the Synod for divers seditious and impudent passages in his Sermons at several places.

From these two *Cants* (Andrew and Alexander) all seditious praying and preaching is called canting.

CABINET COUNCILS.

The first footsteps of a Cabinet council in any European Government were in the reign of Charles the ninth of France when he did not venture to entrust his council with his intention of massacreing the Hugonots, he chose a few men whom he called his Cabinet Council. Formerly in England, all matters were debated and resolved in the privy council, where every man subscribed his opinion, and was answerable for it. This part of the Constitution was broken by Charles first, but more notoriously by his successor, who settled a Cabal or Cabinet Council, where all matters of consequence were resolved and then brought to the privy Council to be confirmed.

AGNES SOREL.

The successes of the French, in expelling the English invaders from their kingdom, during the minority of Henry VI. is not to be solely attributed to the military prowess of the maid of Orleans. Some part is justly due to Agnes Sorel, the beautiful and high-spirited mistress to Charles. She used her powerful influence over him to rouse him from the indolence and luxury to which he was naturally inclined. At one time she went so far as to threaten to seek a new lover in the English camp; "for there," said she, "there are men who can gain kingdoms, and who deserve the fairest women." A circumstance more extraordinary, though it has little relation to politics is, that she lived on terms of the strictest amity with Mary of Anjou, the wife of Charles.

A GOOD KING.

Lewis XII. of France, was universally styled the father of his people. He was parsimonious, but it was because he would not tax his subjects; and when told that there were farces written to ridicule his sparingness, he observed, "it is better that they should laugh at me, than curse me."

ROYAL FOOLS.

When Charles V. was at the court of Francis in the course of his adventurous journey through France to the Netherlands, the latter of these princes observed Triboulet, his jester writing Charles's name on his tablets: he asked him the reason; "This is my list of fools," said Triboulet, "I have placed him there for asking to pass through France." "But," said Francis, "he shall pass in safety," "Good," "replied the other," then I shall erase *his* name and insert *yours* in its room.

EXTEMPORE OF MARGARET OF AUSTRIA.

Margaret of Austria had been affianced to Charles VIII. of France, who rejected her for Anne of Brittany; in 1497, she was overtaken by a violent storm in her passage to join a second husband, John, son of Ferdinand and Isabella. In the most imminent danger she had presence of mind to compose for herself the following humorous epitaph.

Ci git Margot, la gente demoiselle
Qui ait deux maris, et si mourut pucelle.
The princess Margaret here is laid,
Who married twice, yet died a maid.

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE.

Those versed in antient history will remember the experiment tried by one of the Ptolemies for ascertaining the original language of mankind. It is recorded by Lindsay, that James the IVth of Scotland made a similar attempt: "he gar't take a dumb woman, and put her into Inch-keith, and gave her two bairns in company with her; and gar't furnish them with all necessaries, meat, drink, fire and clothes; with all other kind of necessaries, which are required for man or woman, desiring to know what language their bairns would speak when they came to lawful age. Some say they spake good Hebrew, but as to myself," adds the Reporter, "I know not, but by the author's report."

ENGLISH HEROISM.

At the siege of Hennebond in Brittany, a very gallant and romantic action was achieved by a detachment of the English in garrison there. Sir John Butler and Sir Mathew Trelawny, although prisoners of war had been doomed to die, in compliment to the earnest request of Don Lewis of Spain, who had been insulted by the men of Hennebond, and had sworn "by God and St. Jago, that their heads should be taken off in sight of the town as soon as he had dined." This was made known to the great Sir Walter Manny; who, sallying out with six hundred chosen men, penetrated to the tent of Charles de Blois, and rescued the two English knights, who were already blindfolded, and had their hands tied behind them, in order for their instant execution.

ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

There is no authentic account of an University at Cambridge till the year 1110, when Joffrid abbot of Croyland sent one Gislebert a divine, and three others to teach the Sciences. These monks coming to Cambridge hired a barn to teach in, and in a year's time their audience so encreased, that no house or barn was big enough to contain them. From this slender beginning the university of Cambridge soon grew up to a noble seat of learning. The first college, that of Peterhouse, was founded by Hugh Balsham, bishop of Ely, in 1284.

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

A History of the early part of the Reign of James the Second, by the Right Hon. C. J. Fox 4to. Miller, London.

Concluded from Page 212. No. III.

THESE two great men lie near to each other, in the dread equality of dust to dust, nor would we wish to speak ill of the dead, but for the advantage of the living. It is, however, to be observed, that public men are public property, and the consequences of their conduct in the history of human affairs, being universally felt, must be submitted to the tribunal of public opinion, of which a free press is the great organ. There is not (we glory in saying so) there is not an individual, however inconsiderable, who does not contribute his voice and vote to the formation of that public opinion; and who has not his share in the verdict to be passed on the highest and haughtiest of men. Unless the grand inquest of public opinion give a verdict in their favour; unless they pass the audit of this, and succeeding ages, what are the monuments of their ambition; what are the pyramids raised on the groaning earth amidst the sweat, and tears, and blood of millions? Sepulchres *without a name*.

Let us therefore, incidentally, remark the great, and, in our mind, the characteristic distinction between Mr. Pitt and Mr. Fox. The actuating motive (and at best but a selfish one) in the former of these men was ambition of high political station. Whether the station were ostensible or real, his ambition was to be, and to be always Prime Minister of Britain. Most men have a secret idol, and this one was his; he clung most tenaciously to public station. This tenaciousness of power is the most striking feature of his political character, and although he once (and but for once) made use of an expression, that, for a more equal representation of the people in parliament, he would use all his efforts, both as *man* and as *minister*; the truth is, that during the whole course of his political existence, except on one occurrence, shortly succeeded by relapse into office, the *man* was totally sunk and obliterated in the *minister*. He appears to have perfectly appeased any conscientious scruples, by pushing, on particular occasions, his more early principles *to a certain length*, in council and cabinet, where, on finding the *expected* resistance, he never felt it a very difficult task to submit to those existing circumstances, that directed him to yield up the point, but to continue the Premier. Never did man carry his head so high and haughtily in converse with the world, that could bend his opinions, in certain places, with more convenient pliability and more ignoble stooping. He bowed his head early on the question of reform. He bowed the same haughty head on the question of a war with France; and again did he bow it on the question of Catholic Emancipation. "Omnia serviliter pro dominatione." His friends, associates, and successors are notoriously distinguished by the same tenaciousness of office, which characterized their great patron.

In Mr. Fox, a sense of duty to the public was the guiding principle, and this was grounded on the conviction that, under the same existing circumstances, which exalted and humiliated his antagonist; under the system of a double cabinet, a secret influence and an ostensible minister, it was impossible to serve the Public, or the Sovereign himself so well, as by being the leader of a Whig opposition in parliament. It is best known to those who have had most, and longest experience in the practice of the British Government, how much depends upon the *personality* of the Sovereign. Mr. Fox was occasionally *driven* into office, with little prospect he himself cherished of essentially serving the public, but chiefly from the importunity of his own party, most of which thought themselves too long secluded from the sweets of office, and many of whom had, from time to time, abandoned their leader, under the various pretexts which the ever ready excuse of "existing circumstances" had afforded them. Mr. Fox was never so ill at ease, so much, as we may say, out of himself, as when he happened to be

Minister. In him, the Man was often seen struggling with the Minister, and at such times, even a reply from Mr. Canning disconcerted him. But as for Mr. Pitt, after the manner he had disappointed the hopes, and expectations of the people, he was sensible that unless he *continued Minister* (though employed, rather than trusted) he became *nothing;* not even of so much consideration as the once-famed William Pultney, who buried his name in the earldom of Bath. "O my Country!" were, notwithstanding, the last words that came from the lips of William Pitt, and Charles Fox expired after saying, "I die happy, but I pity *you.*"

The last words of great men are often indicative of character, and, by this sepulchral lamp, we shall sit a little longer, to contemplate them. The expression of Fox is plain, and pathetic; easy to be understood, instantly felt, more endearing than sublime, domestic than political. In the exclamation of Pitt, there is considerable ambiguity, and not a little of that false sublime that hung around his character. It sounds well, but we do not perfectly understand it. It is the echo of something grand, but we do not feel it. What *does* it mean? Was it suggested by the melancholy contrast of the state in which he had found his country, to the condition in which he was about to leave it? Too humiliating a consideration this, for his haughty spirit, though hovering over the grave. Was it then from the fate which his country must encounter, when *he* ceased to be the director of her councils? Presumptuous man! Was it from his prospect of an interminable war, or of an impending peace, a war to be carried on by such men as Canning or Castlereagh, or a peace to be completed by his political rivals? This last exclamation vibrates on the ear, without addressing the understanding, or affecting the heart.

Mr. Fox died, for his own fame, most opportunely. Were peace to have been made, it would have been a peace of *his* making. As the war has continued, he is fortunately withdrawn from disgraces that have accompanied it. He would have been compelled to assume the line of conduct which Pitt pursued, and his exit would have been equally unfortunate. He expired while the domestic Charities watched round his bed, and the angel of peace whispered the sweet hope of happiness and repose to mankind, as the reward of his public labours. He expired, not with the flourish of a rhetorician, but in the unity, and sincerity of his amiable character, striving, at the last moment, to collect his mind, and condense its then enfeebled, and fluctuating light, on the dearest object of domestic affection. And he bequeathed to his friends, to the public, and to posterity, the work before us, as the memorial of his principles, and a monument of his mind.

In thus contemplating the author, we really *review* his work. As men cannot well be separated from their measures, nor the individual from his principle of action, so the consistence and integrity of the writer, gives an added value, and an increased merit to his performance. Nor will Whig principles be impressed in the minds and memories of men, more forcibly by the practice and the pen of our author, than by the contrast and apostacy of his rival.

It has been said that some time before, and since the death of Mr. Fox, there has been no such thing as a Whig Party; even though it be granted that the party is dissolved, the principles are indissoluble, and as long as the British Constitution exists, there will be, either in parliament, or among the people, a constant wrestle between that political faith and practice which supports, simply and singly the prerogative of the crown, and that which contends for a free parliament and a limited executive. Whatever *name* may be given them, these parties will always exist in or out of Parliament, and however the circumstances of the times, or the uniform tenor of particular reigns, may operate in repressing *combined* exertion, the active and imperishable principle will be cherished in the breasts of millions, who will worship in secret, on these domestic altars, the Genius of the Constitution, and the Lares of Liberty. Whoever reflects upon the cheering moral which is to be deduced from this portion of

British History, will, into whatever sort of days he may be fallen, "abate not one jot of heart or hope, but steer right onward," confident in the recuperative virtue, or what may be called, the vis medicatrix of the Constitution.

In the political, as in the material world, observation teaches what experience confirms, that destruction and death are terms only relative to our circumscribed conceptions, and that nature is never more fruitful than when we suppose her at the moment of extinction. The war, which has extended a degree of military discipline over *all* ranks and conditions of people, and which, at the same time, has turned the public attention from political concerns, solely to courts of inquiry and military conventions, will not and cannot be perpetual. War can never be a state of nature in any civilized country. In the exertions of a nation, as in the muscles of an individual, effort long continued, must alternate with rest. It is certainly true, without making any particular application, that there must be a limit to the pressure of taxation and the burthens of a people; nor need we be informed by Herodotus that the camel will kneel to be loaded; but not a moment longer, after finding the burthen more than equal, to his strength. The continuance of the present war depends on a precariousness equal to that of the life of an individual, and such is the strange mutability of European affairs, that it would be to us only the wonder of a week, though certainly the blessing of a life-time, to hear of a discovery being made, and acted on, of the possibility and practicability of England and France being well qualified by nature and the God of nature, to be most useful friends of each other; and that they had so long and with such expense of blood and treasure, cultivated an inveterate, and, as it is impiously called, a *natural* enmity against each other, merely on a misunderstanding, a vain fear, an unfounded jealousy, and a thorough misconception of the true means of making both nations more wealthy, more prosperous, and more happy.

It would be perhaps easy at any time to convince the million of a perverted policy in warlike governments, but at no time would it be so, to convince the ministry; yet sooner or later, ministry must accede to the wants and wishes of the million.

The *people* of England are not a hostile people; and by some mutual *sacrifices* of the one power on the land, and of the other on the ocean, a balance might still be preserved to guarantee the liberty of Europe; the dread of universal monarchy might be dispelled; and nations left to reap the rewards exactly commensurate to their extent of capital, their habits of industry, and their geographical station. What would Britain have *then* to fear? With her division of labour in all arts and manufactures, with her extended and extending machinery, with full employment to all classes of the community, with full scope for the diversity of talents and dispositions which discriminate men from each other; with a certain and steady demand for the surplus produce of her soil; with industry, ingenuity and liberty to make her market throughout the world, unrestricted by corporation and monopoly; with that world brought by her shipping to her very doors; with a navy to *defend* her island, and a people rich in the blessings of life, and therefore willing, and therefore able to *defend* themselves, what would Great Britain have, *then*, to fear? In peace, she will conquer France; in war...never. In peace, she will rule the world by its wants, and her power of supplying them. In war, she will have that world her enemy, not merely in military hostility, but the hostility of non-consumption, the necessity (perhaps happy necessity) of every country turning its attention upon *itself*, and bringing its hidden capacities into action. In peace, we need not fear any rivalry. In war we are rearing up future rivals; and, invincible as the navy of Britain is, she may thus be conquered, even upon the ocean. Its waves may be ploughed, but will *they* produce a harvest? If the highway be deserted, what will become of the *market?*

No longer need we fear a single broadside from our enemy's men of war. Nelson's occupation is over;

for Napoleon, or Bonaparte, or whatever name or title, my Lord Castlereagh may chuse to honour him with; this ruler of France, and regent of Europe (whose powers of combination, alas, for liberty! appear to circumscribe and circumvent those of all other men) has constructed a navy of a novel kind, and more efficient service. Here the Baltic, and the German ports, there Holland discharges *prohibitory decrees*, and forms an iron bound coast against the force, or friendship of Britain; and across the Atlantic, we hear, from time to time, a peal of thunder from the circular battery of the American Embargo. This is the warfare, this the navy, by which he means to wrest the trident from the acknowledged Lord of the ocean or make it a *barren* sceptre. We can fight, now, *only* on the continent, and in doing so, we gratify the wishes of Hannibal. He sees Varro descend from his mountains. Let sacrifices be made at the altar of Peace, to meet sacrifices that have been offered at the same altar; even though Mr. Canning, and my Lord Castlereagh be the sacrifices first made, will not the peace of the world be an adequate compensation? There is much patriotism now displayed, but it is at a great distance....from home. We ought not to be patriots, only in *Spain*. But adhering to the party and principles of Fox, not merely with his portrait on our walls, but with his life in our memories, and his book in our hands and hearts, we ought not to hesitate in making sacrifices equal, at least, to those of the enemy, in the pursuit of an honourable peace, and at the same time take every precaution to consolidate these countries against the common enemy, by a reform of existing abuses, by purifying the representation of the people, and by holding forth the right hand of fellowship and welcome, to Catholics into parliament, with the spirit of that generous, and forecasting policy which considers all partial repeal of the Penal laws, as but a tantalizing toleration, and a mitigated persecution.

There is a tide in the opinions as well as in the affairs of men. History in general, more particularly British History, and, most remarkably, that portion of it selected by our author, is made up of striking manifestations of such periodical flux and reflux in public opinion. As the priests of Egypt, recorded on the Nilometer, the different heights of their beneficent river, which periodically left behind it, verdure, fertility, and an expanse of beauty, so, the muse of History inscribes on a column more lasting than granite, the blessed ERAS of British story, and marks those periodical elevations of national character, to which the country owed successive freedom, and happiness, and glory. At the lowest ebb of the public mind, we feel certain presages of a returning flow of the genuine British character. The period of natural fluctuation, has been disturbed, and driven back, by a mighty revolutionary storm, and the swell that succeeded it; but this conflict of the lower elements, will pass away; and a spring-tide of British and Irish freedom will be regulated as by a power from above. The means for producing such events are often strange and unexpected. It would, indeed, be strange if Spain excited a spirit of liberty in Britain, and if the country of Philip and Alva, instructed that of Alfred and Elizabeth. But, however, or whenever the auspicious era will arrive, which renovates the constitution, by making its House of Commons a pure and impartial representative of all the people, no more sincere gratulation will be given from any part of the empire, than from the NORTH OF IRELAND, a portion of the public mind, which we have good authority to say, was always contemplated by Mr. Fox, with the warmest sympathy, and the most heart-felt respect. X.

Sketch of the Geography and of the History of Spain, with a succinct Account of the Causes of the late Revolution; translated from the French (late Paris edition) with some Remarks of the Translator; by Dennis Taaffe. Dublin; printed by Isaac Colles, published by M'Donald, 1808. p.p. 91. 3s. 4d. sewed.

WE promised ourselves but little entertainment or information

from the perusal of this pamphlet; yet even our humble expectations have been disappointed. The history of the Spanish empire from the first settlement of the Goths to the present revolution, comprised in less than eighty octavo pages, could hold forth little of novelty to interest. It could contain neither that accuracy of narration nor copiousness of reflection which gives value to history. Yet had the sketch been properly executed it would have answered some useful ends. A correct, though succinct review of the several eras of the monarchy, serving to develope the causes of the changes which that kingdom has undergone during the lapse of so many centuries, would have supplied useful food to the understanding of many, who though desirous of procuring some knowledge of the former state of a country that is making so gallant and unexpected a stand against Continental subjugation, had not time or capacity for entering more fully into the subject; and might have roused the attention of others to proceed further in this interesting investigation.

There is reason to fear that by the present attempt, neither of these purposes will be effected. Indeed such is our opinion of its total want of merit that nothing but the obligation we are under of laying before the public our sentiments on every publication which issues from the Irish press could have compelled us to drag it into light.

The Sketch commences with a geographical description of Spain, such as may be met with in one of the common books on geography, detailing its provinces, remarkable towns, and what the writer considers curiosities. In this recapitulation we should have remarked with pleasure the number of universities, amounting to twelve in a kingdom whose population is considerably smaller than that of the British Islands, were we not informed in other parts, that they were almost solely devoted to the narrow, useless study of school divinity. In this geographical account we look in vain for any notice of the political circumstances of the several provinces or great towns; even the military geography, a point of so much consequence at present, and which we might suppose would scarcely be omitted in a French publication, is totally unnoticed.

The history, if such it should be called, is little more than a dry insipid relation of the lives of the several princes, and even where it is enlivened by some anecdote, this, instead of throwing light on some leading point, is generally trifling and unimportant. We are stopt to be informed of the violent means by which one king Wamba was forced to accept the crown. This is dwelt upon at length, while we have scarcely commenced the interesting period of the Moorish settlement when we find ourselves at its end. The reign of Charles V. is included in about a couple of pages. If conciseness be the aim of this historiographer, we would recommend him to throw his narrative into verse, as has been done lately with the English history. It would, no doubt, shorten it, and impress it more fully on the memory. Let us try in the present instance.

Over Austria, Flanders, Spain,
Charles yclep'd the fifth did reign,
Resign'd, and in a convent tarried,
Two years, then died and so was buried.

The reigns of Philip the third, and fourth, possess some degree of merit. The outlines of the history of the Duke of Lerma and the Count of Olivares, are not badly traced. That of the reign of Charles IV. in which we are most interested, is but a tissue of common-place observations, which throw no light on the revolution which they profess to elucidate. The concluding paragraph, however, contains some truth.

"Will the result be beneficial to Spain? I answer, it will, let the war terminate as it may. Whether the patriots, or King Joseph conquer, the change must serve a country, which wanted one so much. The contest will call forth the energies long dormant. Frequent discussion will produce freedom of opinion, and investigation. The present licentiousness of the press, will settle into a temperate freedom; habits of industry, rational information *after the storm*, may succeed *torpor* and mental *stagnation*. The necessities of the war will force them to commit what the clergy call sacrilege. They will borrow vessels of gold and silver, golden saints and silver saints, and this breach on the rampart of superstition, may lead gradually to its utter demolition.

If they find their heretical allies honourable and faithful, they will not be zealous to burn them in this world, and damn them in the next."

The little merit of the original is foully defaced by the faults of the translation, which seems to be the work of a man, who so far from being qualified to translate from a foreign language, is ignorant of his own. And to complete the miserable picture, the printing is executed in a manner so slovenly, as would be disgraceful to a penny ballad. False pointing, and false spelling, are equally conspicuous. In many places we see the same name spelt differently in the same page; for instance, the favourite of the wife of Philip the fifth, is called the Princesse d'Ursins, and a few lines lower, the Princesse *d'Urshins*. In another place we are learnedly informed that an antient writer, styled the Spaniards *Mega-thymone-thnos-jberon*; we should have been completely at a loss to discover in what language this antient had chosen to convey his compliment, and should have suspected some hidden mystery to be enclosed, did not the writer, by annexing a translation, kindly relieve us from the necessity of making such a disgraceful confession of our ignorance, and we find that it is intended for μεγαθυμον εθνος Ιϐερων, *the magnanimous race of Iberians.*

Were we to dwell on all the faults, the comment would stretch far beyond the text. We sincerely wish, for the honour of the Irish Press, that the younger sister with whom we are threatened, may either be stifled in the birth, or appear dressed in habiliments more becoming a member of polished society.

Fragments in Prose and Verse, by a young Lady lately deceased, with some Account of her Life and Character; by the Author of Sermons on the Doctrines and Duties of Christianity. Dublin; printed by Graisberry and Campbell, for W. Watson, Capel-street, 1808. 12*mo. p.p.* 232. *Price,* 4*s.* 4*d.*

"Blame where we must, be friendly where we can."

WE regret that the author did not give his name, for we do not recognize him by the description which he has given of himself. We see no cause for concealing it, nor can we admit the plea of modesty. We also wish the name of the young lady had been added. Though these circumstances may appear trivial, yet they confer respectability on a work. When we read the pleasing memoirs of a virtuous character, we wish to know her name, from better motives than those of idle curiosity.

The young lady whose short, but amiable course we are called upon to contemplate, appears from these memoirs to have been the daughter of a Captain S*****, who, by engaging in an unsuccessful banking concern in the West of England, experienced some distressing reverses of fortune. He afterwards entered into the army; his wife and daughter followed him to Ireland and were for some time residents at Ballitore, in the county of Kildare, and afterwards retired to a cottage in the neighbourhood of the lakes of Cumberland.

Our female heroine appears to have possessed that true fortitude of mind, which enabled her to bear the reverse of her father's fortune with composure and firmness, and to leave the beautiful seat of Pearce-field, without unavailing regret. If some natural tears she dropt, she wiped them soon. And a letter to a friend on her departure, manifests a mind which soared above the frowns of fortune. She betook herself to study, and to strong devotional feelings, and these proved a solace to her mind in the various vicissitudes of her future life. Many of her letters are given in this collection; she was also in the habit of committing her thoughts to paper on serious subjects; of these remarks, and of her letters, with a few poetical pieces, and some translations, this little volume is principally composed.

We feel no hesitation in recommending this memorial, or rather transcript of her amiable and virtuous mind to the perusal of our young Female readers, and we doubt not but if they seriously examine this portrait, they will find many things to improve and ameliorate the heart, having a tendency to lead from frivolity that present endemic of the times. Some sentiments of a religious tendency are introduced.

on which diversity of opinion will exist among good people: these, however, are not brought forward obtrusively, or in a manner to hurt the feelings of those, who may hold different sentiments.

After her decease, an interesting account is given of her from the pen of her tenderly affectionate mother. We thought of transcribing an extract from it, but we have not convenient room, and besides we wish our readers to become acquainted with the work itself. We shall, however, give the following delineation of her character, drawn by one of her friends, which, though so highly panegyrical, we trust is faithfully drawn.

"Her person and manners were extremely pleasing, with a pensive softness of countenance, that indicated deep reflection; but her extreme timidity concealed the most extraordinary talents that ever fell under my observation. With scarcely any assistance, she taught herself the French, Italian, Spanish, German, Latin, Greek and Hebrew languages. She had no inconsiderable knowledge of Arabic and Persic; she was well acquainted with Geometry, Algebra, and other branches of the Mathematics. She was a very fine Musician. She drew landscapes from nature extremely well, and was a mistress of perspective. She showed an early taste for poetry, of which some specimens remain. With all these acquirements, she was perfectly feminine in her disposition; elegant, modest, gentle and affectionate; nothing was neglected, which a woman ought to know; no duty was omitted, which her situation in life required her to perform. But the part of her character on which I dwell with the greatest satisfaction, is that exalted piety which seemed always to raise her above this world and taught her at sixteen years of age, to resign its riches and its pleasures, almost without regret, and to support with dignity a very unexpected change of situation."

Many of our readers, may probably start at the idea of such learned accomplishments, and shrink from the study necessary to acquire them. In the following extracts, she has well defended the cause of study against such as pronounce it unsuitable to the female character; and as to the labour, it may be easily proved to be better directed, but not greater than many ladies willingly undergo to qualify themselves in frivolous and worse than useless accomplishments.

"Study is to the mind, what exercise is to the body; neither can be active and vigorous without proper exertion. Therefore, if the acquisition of knowledge were not an end worthy to be gained, still study would be valuable on its own account, as tending to strengthen the mind; just as a walk is beneficial to our health, though we have no particular object in view. A woman must have uncommon sweetness of disposition and manners to be forgiven for possessing superior talents and acquirements. It is not learning that is disliked in women, but the ignorance and vanity which generally accompany it. A woman's learning is like the fine clothes of an upstart, who is anxious to exhibit to all the world the riches so unexpectedly acquired. The learning of a man, on the contrary, is like hereditary rank, which having grown up with him, and being in a manner interwoven with his nature, he is almost unconscious of possessing. The reason of this difference is the scarcity of the commodity amongst females, which makes every one who possesses a little, fancy herself a prodigy. As the sum total increases, we may reasonably hope that each will become able to bear her share with a better grace."

We shall likewise transcribe an account of the beginning of her illness, which settled into a pulmonary consumption, as a caution to our female readers against an improper exposure of their delicate persons to the damps of the evening dew. We use her own words to a faithful and affectionate servant, who attended her in her illness.

"One very hot evening in July, I took a book, and walked about two miles from home, where I seated myself on a stone beside the lake. Being much engaged by a poem I was reading, I did not perceive that the sun was gone down, and was succeeded by a very heavy dew; till in a moment, I felt struck on the chest as if with a sharp knife. I returned home, but said nothing of the pain. The next day being also very hot, and every one busy in the hay-field, I thought I would take a rake, and work very hard, to produce perspiration, in the hope that it might remove the pain, but it did not."

She was born in 1776, and died in 1806.

"Enough that virtue fill'd the space between,
Prov'd by the ends of being, to have been."

Having on a former occasion mentioned the low state of the Dublin press, we have now with much satisfaction to remark that this book is very neatly and accurately printed from the respectable office of Graisberry and Campbell. K

Sermons for every Sunday throughout the Year, principally from the Epistles and Gospels, proper to each Sunday; by the Rev. Barnaby Murphy. 2 vols. 8vo. p.p. 1178. Price, in boards, 1l. 2s. 9d.; Dublin, printed for the author, by H. Fitzpatrick, Capel-street, 1808.

OF the three sources of Eloquence, the senate, the bar and the pulpit, the last alone remains to Ireland. The cause which deprived us of the first, has enervated the second. The lawyer, who formerly considered his own profession as a step by which to rise in the scale of politics, deprived of this hope, has no longer an elevated mark at which to aim. The talents that once aspired to the noble height of directing the energies of a great and free people, must now limit its ambition to be leading counsel in cases of fashionable adultery, or imputed high-treason.

We ought, therefore, to expect that the current thus confined to a single channel, should flow with greater fulness and rapidity; that the abilities of the country directed to a single object, should elevate that to which they are limited, to a degree of excellence hitherto unattained, and more especially that where the opportunities and encouragement are greater, the candidates for the crown of eloquence should surpass those not favoured with equal advantage. Yet, strange to tell, the claims of this country to excellence in the eloquence of the pulpit have been maintained not by those in possession of the authority and revenues appropriated to support the dignity of the clerical character, but by those from whom power and property have been, and still continue to be most jealously withheld. Were it not for the unpatronized, unpensioned zeal of the Catholic Clergy, this species of oratory would be now nearly, if not altogether unknown. It is singular that the only attempt to raise the Protestant pulpit to any degree of respectability, originated from a Catholic. Kirwan was the first, who, by infusing into the souls of his hearers a portion of that fire he had imbibed in the schools of France and Italy, taught a Church of England congregation what they ought to require of their teachers. His example roused and kept alive a spirit of emulation, which his death will, in all probability damp, or even extinguish. To investigate the causes of the deficiency of eloquence in Protestant preachers both of the establishment and dissenters, would be less difficult than invidious. We might quote the high authority of Longinus, to prove that liberty is essential to eloquence, and show that the spirit of Demosthenes himself could not bear up against the paralyzing effects of a *silver quinsy*. But it will be more useful to confine our thoughts to the present candidate for public approbation, and see how far he has maintained his right to the rank he claims.

From the character acquired by this writer as a popular preacher, and from his successful appeals to the purses of his hearers, we were led to conceive too high an opinion of the work before us, and to look for a degree of excellence inconsistent with the general nature of such compositions. We have already had an instance of a fact equally remarkable; that many discourses, which, when spoken, produced an almost electrical effect on the audience, lost all their force when committed to writing. The spirit evaporated when transferred to paper. The great preacher just named was so sensible of this, that he perseveringly refused to have his sermons printed. He was conscious that they owed much, if not the greatest part of their celebrity to adventitious circumstances, deprived of which they could not stand the test of strict unheated criticism. The book now be-

fore us confirms the opinion and proves the prudence of his adherence to the line of conduct he pursued. We here find a collection of sermons, good without doubt, and pregnant with salutary instruction. But they were evidently never designed for the closet. The effect produced by them on our minds is somewhat similar to what we should feel on seeing a person dressed for a ball or masque, walking through the streets by day-light. The ornaments want the circumstances of time and place to make them truly ornamental. We have attempted to remove ourselves to the place of delivery, to identify ourselves with the congregation, to observe the preacher, instead of studying the book, but in vain; the strength of imagination could not bear us through; and we are forced to confess that there have been some secret springs to us unknown, by which he has touched the hearts of his auditors, and produced such effects on their minds.

The principal defect throughout the whole appears to be a want of arrangement, a desultory mode of argument which it is very difficult to trace, or unravel. Instead of convincing the judgment before he endeavours to gain the affections, he takes the opposite course: he storms the head through the heart. Hence we find warm appeals to the passions, mixed with arguments, and the arguments themselves appear to be thrown out as they first occurred to his mind: we feel puzzled rather than convinced, and agitated rather than affected.

It is impossible to cite passages in proof of our assertion, because as it is a fault which pervades a whole, it cannot be discovered by a partial quotation. We shall, however, adduce one instance of his mode of reasoning. It is an argument in proof of the existence of God and a state of future rewards and punishments drawn from the nature of conscience.

"The judgment that constitutes the nature of conscience is founded on three principles. First, I am in a state of dependence. Secondly, There is a supreme law, or what is the same, there is something right and something wrong. Thirdly, I am either guilty or innocent. Every man who maintains the improbability of these principles, and the vanity of the consequences drawn from them must be either a fool or a madman, whose attachment to vice has blinded his eyes, or turned his brain. Take the first principle. I am in a state of dependence: I am subject to a supreme being, to whom I owe my existence, and who holds my destiny in his mighty hand; do I exceed the truth when I say that the man who ventures to affirm that this principle is neither demonstrable nor probable, is a fool or a madman?"

If by principles are meant axioms, self-evident truths, the elucidation is superfluous. If they require proof as seems to be intimated by calling them *demonstrable* and *probable*, it would have been more consistent with the dignity of an orator, and perhaps more convincing to the antagonist, to have advanced his proofs instead of calling names. The futility of such a mode of arguing, if, indeed, it deserves the name, may be seen by using the same method with a principle the reverse of that laid down; a similar mode of proving which, will equally confirm it. Let us make the trial. "I am in a state of independence; there is no being to whom I owe my existence; none who controuls my destiny. The man who denies that this principle is incapable of demonstration is either a fool or a madman."

As an instance of the manner in which this writer attacks the passions instead of convincing the judgment, take the beginning of the sermon preached at the dedication of St. Patrick's chapel. The passage is too long for insertion. The seven first pages are occupied with a high-wrought description of the dedication of Solomon's temple, concluding with an animated apostrophe and address to the Supreme Being, which ends with a prayer, making a complete discourse in itself, so that the preacher is obliged to continue his discourse by a second exordium.

These defects we are inclined to attribute to the nature of extemporary preaching, which necessarily induces a loose and desultory mode of thinking and expression. Hurried on by the

vehemence of passion, the orator cannot pause to digest and arrange the thoughts that press for utterance; did he allow himself time for cool reflection, more would be lost in energy than would be gained in correctness. The same reason may account for occasional asperities, and even vulgarities of expression, which too frequently offend the ear. As where he speaks of "the all-wise governor of the universe leaving the series of human events to *hap-hazard*," and tells us that, "Religious prejudices and disunion are melting *in the crucible* of natural affection and common interest." These may strike the hearer for a moment, but are immediately effaced; they dwell on the mind of the reader.

Let it not be supposed that because we have pointed out these defects, the work is to be wholly condemned: far from it. Independently of the many brilliant passages which shine through it, and of which we would gladly give specimens, a vein of sound piety and pure Christian morality pervades the whole; and with very few exceptions, these volumes would prove a valuable family companion for every Sunday in the year, to a Christian of any religious persuasion. We particularly approve of the adaptation of the subject to the day; a practice which links the several parts of the divine service more closely together, and induces the hearer to make the passages of scripture selected for the occasion, the subjects of reflection by finding them referred to, explained and enforced by the subsequent words of the preacher. It were much to be wished that such practice was more common. If any one wish to see one of the points of difference between the two great sects of the Christian Church treated of, let him turn to the sermon preached on the profession of a nun. Though he be not persuaded he will be interested. To hear the arguments by which so many of the young, and opulent, and beautiful, have been prevailed on to forego all the allurements of youth, and wealth, and beauty, and through the purest, the most sublime motives of exalted veneration to the great author of nature, to bind themselves by a vow in direct opposition to the first great commandment given by that Being to the newly created world, cannot fail of being a source of affecting though melancholy gratification; a pleasure chastized by pain.

One point more deserves notice. In preaching on general subjects, to a numerous and mixed congregation, it appears to be unnecessary, and in some measure indelicate, to introduce any remark bearing upon tenets either religious or political, concerning which an avowed difference of opinion exists. To a Catholic audience the peculiar doctrines of their faith should be explained; but this may be done without reflecting on those of others. At a time when each party professes to live on terms of mutual forgiveness and amity, and be it remembered that *both* parties have much to forgive and forget, too great caution can not be used in avoiding these points, which have already produced such deadly feuds. When the wounds have been so lately healed, we should avoid touching the tender part. Yet Dr. Murphy speaks of the Reformation, improperly so called. Every Catholic must believe that what we call Reformation is a culpable schism; did he think otherwise, his adherence to his sect would be mere pertinacity. Why then at such a time press a topic which irritates, but does not instruct. Were a Protestant preacher publicly to make use of such a strong expression in condemnation of any of those tenets which he must believe to be false, we need not tell what would be the effect. It has been felt already. The out-cry would be loud and violent; and not without reason. But let each grant what it requires from the other. This is the mutual sacrifice which only can cement our new-formed peace. Let each maintain and extend his faith by arguments, drawn from the nature of the thing itself, without endeavouring to found it on the ruins of his neighbour's. In points of doctrine the difference must and will be great and durable. In points of practice, in mutual love and mutual forbearance, both agree; both preach the same heavenly precepts, and, in the sacred name of heaven, let both practice them.

Q.

ANCIENT LITERATURE.

ESSAY ON THE INTERVIEW BETWEEN HECTOR AND ANDROMACHE.

(Concluded from Page 222, No. III.)

WE now come to the answer of our hero to the earnest solicitations of his affectionate spouse. In this he is made to show all the greatness worthy of the man, who, in the VIII. book of the Iliad, fears not Diomede; who is the principal performer in so terrific a scene at the end of book XII. who in book XIV. and other places, bravely contends with valiant Ajax; and in book XVI. slays Patroclus.

"Quaque ruit, non *tu* tantum terreris, Ulysse;
"Sed *fortes* etiam: tantum trahit ille timoris."

On his part is admirably evinced a firmness of mind not to be overcome by the strongest temptations; and at the same time, a heart susceptible of the tenderest emotions of natural affection. "How," says Cuchullin, "can I behold Bragela to raise the sigh of her breast?" He feels as a husband and father; but coolly considers his duty, as a man and a patriot. The *amor patriæ* predominates over every thing; yea, the very love he entertains for Andromache, the care he has for Astyanax, the regard he holds for himself and friends, are all absorbed in it, and increase the heat of his martial spirit. He spurns the appellation of a coward, and resolves to preserve inviolate that fame hitherto unspotted. His bosom beats high for the glory of his ancestors, and the honour of his family; yet he properly expresses his superior attachment to his wife, by declaring, that the fall of Troy, the destruction of his father, mother and brothers, would excite in him no such sorrowful feelings as her fate, when toiling a slave, and made the subject of Grecian insult, Ελευθερον ημαρ αποὐρας is worthy of particular observation, as a dignified figurative expression, which receives ample justice from the translation of Mr Cowper. "Thy sun of peace and liberty for ever set." The foul exultation of the Grecians over helpless weakness is truly the language of nature; and her manner of feeling their insults, and desire of possessing such a husband as Hector to break her servile chains, are extremely well conceived. His part is made to conclude with the prayer, that the tomb may receive his lifeless body, rather than he should live to hear her cries or see her tears. This is the strongest manner in which affection could be exprest, and is a proper return for her declaration in line 410.

He now in transport of passion, turns to the child, which, fearing the warlike dress and aspect of its father, evades his grasp, and seeks shelter in the nurse's bosom. Here every minute circumstance is introduced, without in any degree lessening the sublimity of the piece. The three characters are made to stand in full view before the eye. The reader sees the endearing fears of the infant; beholds the parents' smile, which was wont to rise on more joyful occasions; sees the father remove the terror-causing object, and fondling his son; and hears him address the gods in his behalf. He prays that he may receive strength, even more than had his father; that he may be crowned with glory, and bring home to his mother the spoils of victory. It is not only natural, but reasonable, that a father, who is conscious of good or great qualities in himself, should wish them to descend to his son, to honour posterity, and profit mankind after his death. Thus it is with Hector; he is proud in the hope of his son's greatness. The same kind of parental pride is exemplified in the words of Ossian to his son:

"And Oscar, terrible wert thou, my best, my greatest Son! I rejoiced in my secret soul, when his sword flamed over the slain."

And also

"His renown will be a sun to my soul in the dark hour of my departure."

Hector returns the child to the arms of Andromache. The smile of joy inspired by her infant rises on her cheek, but is suddenly checked by the sting

of grief, which is incomparably expressed by Δακρυοεσσ' γελασασα, "Smiling through her tears." Overwhelmed with confusion, she sheds the tear of sorrow; and Hector again addresses her in a tone of sympathy combined with fortitude. He exhorts her to be cheerful, and piously to submit to the will of the Gods; for that without their direction, nothing could happen. Here a proper distinction may be seen, between the duty of a man and that of a woman: he desires her to go home, and industriously attend to her domestic concerns; while he goes to perform in the field, what is the duty of all *men*, and particularly of *himself*. This is exactly consonant with the spirit of the Grecian laws, which prohibited their women on pain of death to attend the Olympic games, and other public places, lest they should be too far seduced from their proper sphere of life. Such is the appropriate language of Hector,

"And to the field goes he; where every flower,
Did as a prophet weep what it foresaw,
In Hector's wrath."

The conduct of Andromache is also strictly becoming; for, notwithstanding all her reluctance, she is obsequious to her husband's will. This well corresponds with what Shakespeare gives as the duty of a wife:

"Such duty as the subject owes the prince,
Even such a woman oweth to her husband."

Her final departure is finely described by Εντροπαλιζομενη, θαλερον κατα δακρυ χεουσα. "She casts a longing, lingering look behind." This is extremely significant of her fondness; and her weeping conveys to the mind a full idea of her condition. A scene nearly as affecting is in Shakespeare's Henry VI. on the parting of Queen Margaret from Suffolk, with whom she was secretly in love:

"Oh! let me intreat thee cease; give me thy hand,
That I may dew it with my mournful tears;
Nor let the rain of heaven wet this place,
To wash away my woeful monuments.
Oh! could this kiss be printed in thy hand,
That thou mightst think on these lips by the seal,
Through whom a thousand sighs are breath'd for thee."

Go, speak not to me; even now begone—
Oh! go not yet—Even thus two friends condemn'd,
Embrace and kiss, and take ten thouand leaves,
Loather a hundred times to part than die.
Yet now farewell, and farewell life with thee!"

There here seems to be rather more passion than on the part of Andromache, which is certainly a fine stretch of the author's imagination; but it seems to fall short of the latter, in regard to natural strokes and winning arguments. The feelings of Suffolk also, are more easily overcome than would be consistent with the character of the magnanimous Hector.

But certainly our author's introducing the child along with the mother, gives the piece much additional pathos. It more immediately summons forth the father's feelings with those of the husband; and gives a variety of representation, which brings the scene to admirable perfection. A similar passage may be quoted from Ossian, whose exalted genius, in many instances, seems to have been congenial with that of Homer.

"And is Cuchullin fallen? Mournful are Tura's walls, and sorrow dwells at Dunscaich. Thy spouse is left alone in her youth; the son of thy love is alone. He shall come to Bragela, and ask her why she weeps. He shall lift his eyes, and see his father's sword. Whose sword is that? he will say, and the soul of his mother is sad."

But to return. Her grief is strongly depicted in the sentence, where, when arriving at home, she raises the γοον πασιησιν. Despair pervades the whole house; and they raise the cry of grief. This is extremely natural among servants, who were fond of their generous master; and the sad forebodings of their minds are all realized in book XXII. where, notwithstanding the earnest dissuasions of both father and mother, he waits the attack of Achilles, and

falls a victim to his strength and cruelty. Andromache, when employed agreeably to Hector's injunction, hears a doleful cry from the tower. She is mightily agitated, and goes to seek the cause. She beholds her Hector cruelly dragged towards the fleet of Greece. Her part here is supported in a manner strictly consistent with her words and actions during the interview. And on this occasion also, Homer displays such vast power over the passions, that we are compelled to say, he is indeed the favourite of nature, who has access to her inmost recesses, and is full master of her deepest secrets.

To show, a little farther, the propriety of Andromache's character in the interview, may be adduced the the lines of Virgil, where Æneas comes to her, while making her yearly offering to Hector's ashes:

"Ut me conspexit venientem, & Troia circum
Arma amens vidit, magnis exterrita monstris,
Diriguit visu in medio; calor ossa reliquit:
Labitur, & longo vix tandem tempore fatur:
Verane te facies, verus mihi nuncius affers,
Nate Dea? vivisne! aut, si lux alma recessit,
Hector ubi est? Dixit, lachrymasque effudit, & omnem
Implevit clamore locum."*

The misery which she felt at her future lot, is also pathetically expressed, when she says,

"O felix una ante alias Priameïa virgo,
Hostilem ad tumulum Trojæ sub mœnibus altis
Jussa mori; quæ sortitus non pertulit ullos,
Nec victoris heri tetigit captiva cubile!"†

evidently amounting to a declaration that she would have suffered death, rather than have submitted to the disagreeable lot of connection with Pyrrhus.

Her lasting affection for Astyanax is also elegantly shown in her words, when bestowing to young Ascanius some vestments of her own working:

....."Cape dona extrema tuorum
O mihi sola mei super Astyanactis imago!
Sic oculos, sic ille manus, sic ora ferebat;
Et nunc æquali tecum pubesceret ævo."†

I come now to observe, that this episode, from the situation which it holds in the poem, has a peculiarly fine effect, by relieving the reader from the gloomy cloud, which a continued round of battles, has collected in his mind. He has yet found little in the character of Hector, but the bold animated general; and when he is wrought up to a high pitch of martial ardour, and himself almost begins to thirst for blood, his soul is finely mellowed by this inimitable scene of domestic love and tenderness. It may be said to operate on the mind as well adapted music between the acts of a tragedy. And it gives so favourable an impression of the husband, the wife, and the son, that during the remainder of the poem they continue to be objects of the highest interest. The author too is

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* But when, at nearer distance, she beheld,
My shining armour, and my Trojan shield,
Astonish'd at the sight, the vital heat,
Forsakes her limbs, her veins no longer beat;
She faints, she falls, and scarce recovering strength,
Thus with a falt'ring voice she speaks at length;
"Are you alive, Oh goddess born!" she said,
"Or if a ghost, then where is Hector's shade?"
At this she raised a loud and frightful cry.
DRYDEN.

† Oh! only happy maid of Priam's race,
Whom death delivered from the foe's embrace!
Commanded on Achilles' tomb to die;
Not forced like us to hard captivity,
Or in a haughty master's arms to lie.

† "Accept," she said, "these monuments of love,
Which in my youth with happier hands I wove;
Regard these trifles for the giver's sake.
'Tis the last present Hector's wife can make,
Thou call'st my lost Astyanax to mind,
In thee his features and his form I find;
His eyes so sparkled with a lively flame,
Such were his motions; such was all his frame;
And, ah! had heaven so pleased, his years had been the same."

sufficiently cautious, lest Hector's leaving the field should derogate from his military character; for he is careful to show that he did so for a *general* purpose, and that he determined, while performing this *partial* duty, never to lose sight of the public cause.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON LANGUAGE.

THE wish has been somewhere expressed, that philosophers had presided at the first formation of language, in consequence of which, it was supposed that it would have been better adapted to express our ideas. But it may be safely asserted in reply, that the advantage of this would have been small indeed, except philosophers had continued unwearied watchmen through successive ages, over all the changes and additions to which language, from the very nature of things, is liable; and this we know to be impossible. Let the original system of language have been what it might, time in its progress would have wrought so many changes in it, as to have thrown obscurity over its origin. Language is allowedly deficient, yet perhaps the cause of this is not to be sought for so much in its own nature, as in the ignorance, dishonesty, inaccuracy, or indolence of man. Politicians and casuists so intangle right and wrong, that plain men are puzzled, and, speaking at random, frequently use one word for the other. Divines, in the search after truth, will preach and publish defences for those who promise one thing, and resolve to do another....nay....they will assert this to be not only excusable, but to be what should be done; and while men of plain understanding christen this *Equivocation, they* will assert it to be integrity. The profession of the law, which, if we may judge by the practice of its professors, openly avows and enjoins every perversion possible of human language, must not be meddled with here, both because it is a kind of *noli me tangere* business, and because the instance brought from the preceding science, concludes a *fortiori* against this. Hence we may safely infer, that while the passions and interests of men continue, language must be influenced, its stability impeded, and consequently uncertainty prevail in a greater or less degree.

We may, however, proceed too far in asserting the defectiveness of language. The ordinary purposes of life seem very satisfactorily managed by it, and, as (after all) they are most important, as concerning the great mass of mankind, we may, with more patience suffer the exercises of ingenuity with which we are occasionally treated in the learned professions. Even this abuse might in a great measure be remedied, if writers on debateable subjects would proceed by mutual agreement to define every term that may be ambiguous in its meaning, and to adhere to, and to inculcate the use of it so defined. In this very necessary work of definition, if the primitive meaning of the word can be traced and preserved, there will be great advantage in an illustration retro-spective, as well as prospective; and as the proper understanding of ancient authors, whether classic or others, is frequently of the utmost importance, that plan of investigation, which at once embraces the past and the future, should be kept in view. Those, who are conversant in critical studies, must often have experienced the confusion consequent on investigations imperfectly conducted, and have often felt bitter regret at the prevalence of the prejudice, which has condemned the study of words as mere trifling, and unworthy of a philosopher. That the unthinking part of mankind should have entertained such an opinion should not surprize us: but we may be allowed to express astonishment, when we find, that those, who make higher pretensions, should join in the thoughtless outcry. When we consider, that the most extensive acquaintance with every branch of science, a deep research into antiquity with its customs, manners, laws, pursuits and opinions, a mathematical precision of mind, with what is rarely found in the same person, a just discernment of the time when we may depart from that precision, an intimacy with matters in general thought too minute to deserve attention, which yet the judicious will find of great importance, a vigilance never weary of catching even the whispers around

When such things are found indispensable in the investigation of words, shall we pronounce that investigation a trifling pursuit; and when we find a skilful etymologist, shall we not receive him with due respect, rather than treat his useful labours with thoughtless derision?

In such pursuits men have stumbled. This must be expected: let us not, therefore, reject their labours; nor despise the high attainments of a Vallancey, because he is bowed by the law of human infirmity.

Were it necessary to establish the importance of this pursuit more strongly, we might observe the subject in a different point of view, and having hitherto considered the rare qualifications indispensable for an etymologist, we might consider also the important effects constantly produced on the minds of men by the proper or improper application of words, and in a thousand instances establish the full and deep importance of Mirabeau's assertion, that "Words are things." But, perhaps, our readers will think enough has been said on a subject in general so little interesting. We would, therefore, direct their attention to this curious fact concerning tongues, that in proportion as they ascend into antiquity, and preserve the simplicity of their origin, they are found to possess in a great measure that accuracy which philosophers have wished for.

The modern European tongues of Celtic origin have been little examined, because of the great darkness in which the parent tongues have been involved; while those of Latin origin, as the Italian and Spanish lead us to their stock, in which we find a confirmation of this position. The Latin tongue presents many roots; when we extend our view to its parent, the Greek, the facility of derivation encreases; but when we arrive at the Hebrew, which some have thought to have been mediately the source of the preceding, we find a tongue so preserving its simplicity as on a slight examination to resolve itself into about 200 roots. Of the words derived from them, the majority, even at this day, bear before them such marked significance in their meaning, as directs the attention to some observable qualities in the thing named, and warrants the supposition, that the name was assigned, not at random, but deliberately and intentionally. Thus from the root, GAD, to assault or rush on, comes GEDI, a kid. Virgil in Georgic II. 530, will furnish a good comment on this:

.....Pingues que in gramine læti
Inter se adversis luctantur cornibus hadi,
.....*Butting with adverse horns.*
The kids sport wanton on the joyful grass.

From, *chala*, to labour to faintness comes, *chalk*, an ornament wrought with labour and pains,

"While the *pale* artist plies the *sickly* trade."

A search of this kind would present many unexpected views of the nature and qualities of things, and afford a striking proof, that those who affixed those names must have been attentive observers of nature: for example, the word, AR, signifies to flow; one of its legitimate offspring, AUR, light, has been named thus evidently from observations corresponding in result with those of modern philosophers, who have denominated it a *fluid*.

The Hebrews were by their religious, which was also their political, constitution, separated from other nations. The study of their law, which prescribed their civil and religious duties, was their only learning; and they were consequently, in the ordinary acceptation of the word, an illiterate people. Their trades seem to have been few, and principally those connected with husbandry, which was their chief pursuit. Hence from the connection that is found ever to exist between the manners of a people and their language, the Hebrew tongue must have been, as we find it, very simple and circumscribed, yet free from the various fluctuations, to which all tongues have been subject, that have been exposed to the operation of causes from which the Hebrew has been exempted.

It presents to us then an interesting and valuable subject of contemplation: we can, through it, approach nearer to the origin of language, and better inspect its primitive mechan-

ism, than through any other tongue yet known: and so far as research has gone, it establishes for this tongue the claim of pregnant accuracy of meaning, in the terms of which it is composed.

Considering the subject a little farther, we must be led to grant to this people the praise of close observation; we should hence be induced to receive, with respect, the fruits of this observation, and to follow the clue, their labours seem to offer. The word above mentioned, AUR, seems to hold out an invitation to search, and has in fact been the origin of these reflections. AUR, is plainly the source of ἀήρ and *aer*, and *aura*; from which we may justly infer, that some connection has been supposed to exist between the fluids, air and light. Ovid in his description of Chaos implies this strongly in the words, "*Lucis egens aer*" air devoid of light, as do the remarkable words of Virgil, Æn. III. l. 600, "*Cœli spirabile lumen.*" An experimental investigation of this might furnish some new facts, while at all events, we can only remain where we are; for notwithstanding all that has been done in the investigation of light, it is still no more than darkness visible.

Rockville. A

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

"Bellaque matribus detestata."
HORACE, ODE, i. LIB. I.

SIR,

DACIER and Sanadon, in their commentary on this passage, explain *matres*, in an extended sense, as signifying matrons or women respectable for years or high rank. The latter goes still further, and endeavours to include young unmarried women under this expression; "because" says he, "they have equal reason to dislike war, which exposes their lovers to danger." "This," he adds "heightens the beauty of the expression." In my opinion, if it be permitted to dissent from such high authority, the beauty of the description is rather diminished by viewing it in this light. War is dreadful to women, but more particularly to mothers, whose feelings are so sensible to the dangers of a favourite child. The image which the poet wishes to paint, is greatly heightened by being thus shown in the strongest point of view. In like manner, Virgil, to complete the horrors of the alarm sounded by Alecto to excite the Italian states to arms, concludes with a similar image,

"Et pavidæ matres pressere ad ubera natos."

This has been closely copied with great success by Akenside, who finishes his description of a storm by a similar image;

"And every mother closer to her breast
Presses her child."

In this latter instance the effect is produced by a different cause, which diminishes the grandeur of the idea. It is caused by sympathy, not by terror. Viewing the shipwreck from the shore, the spectators have but a secondary view of the danger, lessened by that tincture of selfishness so beautifully described by Lucretius,

"Suave mare magno turbantibus æquora ventis,
E terra alterius magnum spectare laborem;
Non quia vexari quenquam est jucunda voluptas,
Sed, quibus ipse malis careas, quia cernere suave est."

"'Tis pleasant when the seas are rough, to stand
And view another's danger, safe at land;
Not 'cause he's troubled, but 'tis sweet to see,
Those cares and fears from which ourselves are free." CREECH.

It may be a confirmation of the opinion that the maternal feeling was the object in Horace's mind if we consider that it has been a favourite theme of many poets: it is indeed so natural and so affecting, that though often repeated it never cloys by the repetition. In an English song, the author of which I do not recollect, we have the same idea of the parental anxiety during the absence of a favourite child, conveyed to us in the following lines,

The tender mother knows no joy,
But bodes a thousand harms,
And sickens for her darling boy,
When absent from her arms.

If you think this observation worthy of notice, have the goodness to insert it in your Magazine. Yours, &c. P.

LIST OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

From the 20th of October, to the 20th of November.

The delay of the English Mails during the publication of this department of last month's Magazine, having rendered it in some degree defective, the works then omitted are added to those of the present month from which they are distinguished by this mark (*).

This list will be found, on comparison, as *comprehensive* as any of the *London periodical Lists*, notwithstanding the distance and difficulty of procuring early intelligence.

HISTORY.

CALEDONIA; or an Account Historical and Topographical of North Britain, by G. Chambers.

BIOGRAPHY.

* A Short view of Legal Biography, with critical observations on the Authority of Reporters and other Law writers, by R. W. Bridgeman, esq. 8s.

Life of the Right Hon. Francis North, Baron of Guilford, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, under Charles II. by the Hon. Roger North, 2 vols. 8vo. 1l. 1s.

Anecdotes of Painters, born or resident in England, with critical remarks on their productions, by Edward Edwards, 4to. 1l. 1s.

Life of St. Neot, eldest brother of Alfred the Great, by the Rev. John Whitaker.

VOYAGES AND TRAVELS.

* Semple's Journey through Spain and Italy to Naples; and thence to Smyrna and Constantinople, 2nd edition, 2 vols. 8vo. 12s. boards.

SCIENCE.

* A Dictionary of Practical and Theoretical Chemistry, with its application to the Arts and manufactures, by W. Nicholson, 8vo. 21s.

The Transactions of the Linnæan Society of London, vol. 9th, 2l. 2s.

The Retrospect of Philosophical, Mechanical, Chemical and Agricultural Discoveries, No. 15, 3s. 6d.

An Ethical Treatise on the Passions, by T. Cogan, M.D. 10s. 6d.

MEDICINE.

* A Practical Dictionary of Domestic Medicine, by Richard Reece, M. D. 8vo. 18s. boards.

* Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, No. 16, 3s.

* Modern Medicine, with an Exposition of the principal Discoveries, by Daniel Gwins, M.D. 8vo. 6s.

* Observations on the Egyptian Ophthalmia, and Ophthalmia Purulenta, as it has appeared in England, by William Thomas, 2s. 6d.

* An Exposure and Refutation of various Misrepresentations, published by Dr. M'Gregor and Dr. Jackson, in three Letters to the Commissioners of Military Enquiry, by R. N. Bancroft, M.D. 4s.

Modern Practice of Physic, by E. G. Clarke, M.D. 8vo. 9s.

Identities ascertained; or an illustration of Mr. Ware's opinion respecting the sameness of infection in Gonorrhea and Egyptian Ophthalmia, 8vo. 2s. 6d.

The Medical and Physical Journal, No. 117, 2s. 6d.

A Short System of Comparative Anatomy: translated from the German of J. F. Beumenback; by William Lawrence, 8vo. 12s.

The Medical and Surgical Spectator, Number IV, 2s. 6d.

The Syphilitic Physician, being a Treatise on the Venereal Disease. By C. Erskine. 2s.

The Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal; Number 16, 3s.

A Letter on the Medical Properties of the Fleecy Hosiery. By W. Buchan, M. D. 6th edition.

EDUCATION.

* Key to Joyce's Arithmetic, 18mo. 2s. 6d.

* Scripture Versions, Hymns, and Reflections on select passages, for the use of young persons, by J. Waring, 12mo. 3s. 6d.

* Natural Theology, or a demonstration of the Being and Attributes of God, from his works, arranged in a popular way for youth, by William Enfield, M.A. 18mo. 2s. 6d.

* The first Catechism for Children, containing common things necessary to be known, by the Rev. D. Blair, 9d.

* Advice to Young Ladies, on the improvement of the Mind and Conduct of life, by T. Broadhurst, 2s. 6d.

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MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

AT the conclusion of the last month we looked forward to the present with an indescribable sensation of mixed hopes and fears. After the great potentates (whose meeting at Erfurth, seemed like the conjunction of two planets hostile to human repose) had separated, to put into execution the plans there meditated, we thought ere this that the mighty and full-charged machine would have exploded. Yet whether these conjunctions be favourable or foreboding to the best interests of humanity, whether such machines be really infernal, or fraught with blessings to mankind, it is, perhaps, premature, peremptorily to decide. We live in a region of clouds, situated far below the clear and serene observatory of the philosophic historian, who will be enabled to form a better judgment of the real nature of such events, by having observed their consequences. The fate of Europe is still in suspense. Schemes big with the fate of Empires, require time to develope. But though the grand decision of the political liberty of Europe is still undetermined, much has occurred worthy of reflection. Portugal has changed masters; Spain still makes vigorous and persevering efforts at emancipation; Austria seems to have had a wish to prepare for some new convulsion; Turkey rouses its mighty resources; Russia perseveres in the scheme traced by its coadjutor in the west; Sweden still attempts resistance; England calls out with increasing importunity for inquiry and justice; Ireland is SILENT. All form a group to strike us with awe and astonishment; each figure presents itself in a new attitude, equally capable of arresting our attention.

PORTUGAL.

When this country had been liberated from the yoke, we were led to expect important changes in its internal arrangements. A change has taken place, great, important and impressive, a change of masters. The English have expelled the French, and assumed their place. General Hope succeeds to Junot, and British soldiers are employed in place of their predecessors, as arguments in the hands of the military ruler of the day, to demonstrate the blessings derived to the people from their present government. That the people have benefitted by the change there is little doubt. The cool, systematic temperament of their present governors is, certainly, more acceptable to the feelings of a haughty, though indolent nation, than the domineering vanity of their former masters. They are not plundered, nor

wantonly insulted; but as a nation holding a place in the great political commonwealth of Europe, or even as a government possessed of certain rights which itself alone ought to regulate, its good effects may be problematical. "Woe" says the Eastern proverb "to the nation in whose concerns foreigners interfere." It ceases at once to be an independent nation; it becomes a province of the officious ally. The people of Portugal themselves feel sensible of this, and the expression of this sentiment has been discovered to us by the very means used to repress it. On the confirmation of articles at Cintra, a jealousy appeared in the protected against the protectors, arising from a feeling of national honour. The hoisting of a standard gave vent to it; it expressed itself, and the cause of offence was removed.

It might have been a mistake, an oversight, a transient ebullition of national vanity at the moment of triumph: let it have been what it may, it was corrected. The English marched into Lisbon; we might have said, took possession of it. A military edict, to prevent disturbances, was published by the English General. This too, might be tolerated. Previous to the embarkation of the French, and their adherents, it might have been a means of preventing the probable consequences of mutual irritation, between them and the Portuguese. We pass over the objection of the English General obtruding himself in place of the national Executive. The government might have been, as yet, unorganized; and the circumstances of the moment might have required a sacrifice to imperious necessity. But when the French and their adherents were removed, when all the danger was over, why still continue the coercion? Why, when the disordered part was eradicated, still apply the blister or the cautery? Why not permit the constitution to recover its pristine vigour and sanity, by the natural action of its internal agents? Good reasons, no doubt, can be alledged for all this; good, indeed, and imperious they must be, to prove the necessity of a system which has already produced some bad effects, and which forebodes still worse. The people are discontented; and not only a part of the English force in Portugal, the whole of which is so necessary elsewhere, is left behind, as a species of police officers, either to controul the nominal government, or under them to controul the people; but a part of the armament at Corunna is detached from the theatre of glory to this *honourable service*. We are told there is an English and French party in Portugal. It was to be hoped that the article of the convention which secured Portuguese delinquents from the vengeance of their country was framed to prevent this; their persons are saved, but their political existence still remains. The bad effects of this coercive protection is more extended. The Convention of Cintra cannot have raised our character with the Spanish Patriots. Our subsequent measures must have lowered it much. The former must lead them to suspect a dereliction of the interests of our friends, the latter can scarcely fail of inducing them to attribute unworthy motives to us in so doing. The caution with which they have received our hasty strides to alliance and support will encrease, suspicion take place of new-formed confidence, and the intriguing spirit of our enemy will not let slip the opportunity of fomenting discord. In every court of Europe we may expect to hear our hollow-hearted friendship with Portugal alledged as an incontrovertible proof of the ambitious spirit that actuates our councils. "Not content," it will be said, "with usurping the empire of the sea, these haughty islanders wish to establish a territorial empire on the continent of Europe, as they have already done in Asia, by arrogating their right of dominion over their allies, by treating as subjects those who received them as friends." It is, however some consolation, that the English nation is wholly free from the guilt or the imprudence of this transaction. The Ministers have taken upon themselves the whole responsibility. Occuring during the recess of parliament; the nation could not express its sentiments; and though the appointed time of assembling that body took place during these occurrences, the ministers either thinking them not sufficiently important to demand any

extraordinary notice of the high court of the nation, or depending on their ability to supply the proper remedy, have postponed the assembling of it till the usual time of meeting. When it does meet, we trust the voice of the people will be heard.

SPAIN.

The North of Spain is now the focus of Political speculation. Much depends on the transactions there. Should patriotism baffle the designs of ambition, we do not cherish the idle hope that the newly formed dynasty in France will be annihilated, but it may be confined within its proper limits; should the patriots fail in their efforts (and sincere and fervent as must be our wishes for the success of such a cause) we see sufficient reason to fear for the worst. The French armies, notwithstanding the superiority of numbers opposed to them, have been able to maintain their defensive position in Navarre and Biscay, and even at times to make successful advances. The Spaniards seem to be cautious of hazarding a decisive battle against troops formidable even after defeat. They seem to wish to accustom their raw levies to the sight of their opponents, and to waste the enemies' forces by a species of harrassing blockade. Had they been able to carry such a plan into effect previous to the arrival of the long expected succours from France, it might have been decisive, but the opportunity is now lost. Numerous reinforcements headed by Bonaparte himself, have crossed the Pyrenees. Had we no other testimony of their arrival his presence would have been a convincing proof of it. It is well known, that where he appears, he is attended by an overpowering host. We find him now surrounded by a crowd of officers almost grey in the arts of war. Among the rest we notice Junot, (or as he is titled by the agents of the British ministry, the Duc d'Abrantes.) The sentiments of the French ruler, respecting his conduct in Portugal, may be best judged of by his so soon again appearing in a confidential situation in his train. He no doubt attends to add his local knowledge to the military skill of his fellows. The effects of his appearance are already evidenced by the commencement of offensive operations. General Blake after an obstinate resistance has been forced to yield to superior numbers and discipline. But though he has yielded his post, he has not forfeited his honour. The obstinate resistance made by his soldiers, evince, we trust, the true spirit of Liberty. If the spirit be fostered by the acting government, there are yet hopes of final success. But if, actuated by the narrow policies of an exclusive party, they neglect the people, if freed from the controul of monarchy, they attempt to erect an aristocracy, the people, sensible of no change, but that of many masters for one, will not be ardent in the cause; their spirit will quickly be damped. When they have lost the consciousness of self-importance, they have lost the spring which enables them to act against the mighty force that presses on them. The supreme central Junta has not yet had time to develope its views; its members do not as yet know, nor are they known to each other; the only important public act is the nomination of a commissioner, intended either as a check, or an adviser to their generals. The difference between Cuesta and Blake, may have suggested the utility of such an officer. The independence which from the nature of their service the generals have hitherto enjoyed, may require to be curbed. A link of communication may be wanting between the armies and the executive; a nerve to guide the hand by the dictates of the head. Yet it is much to be feared that a haughty nobility, who have once tasted the sweets of power, will not readily participate it with the people. If they have the magnanimity to sacrifice private passions, and private interest to the public welfare, they will prove themselves worthy to direct the energies of a people resolved to be free.

The effect produced by the succession of revolutions in Europe, on South American settlements, has not been duly estimated. It is well known that the Spanish colonies in the new

world, are linked to the mother country by a very slender chain. They pay to her the kind of homage given by the Satraps to the Kings of Persia, during the decline of that empire, acknowledging obedience and paying tribute more from a motive of interest, than a feeling of duty. The chief men, there, in hopes of raising themselves a step higher in the scale of ambition, may seize the present opportunity of separating themselves, and forming a distinct and independent government. Such a proceeding would be a deadly blow to Spain. Even at present, though supported by the mines of Peru, they are in want of every thing requisite to the organization of an army. They look to England for arms, clothes, and money. And this latter power now feels herself obliged to disgorge the treasure seized at the commencement of the Spanish war, in her predatory attack on the four frigates; this is, with respect to Spain, fulfilling the strictest rules of poetical justice; though as to ourselves, we have some reason to complain. The booty enriched individuals; the subsidy is extracted from the pockets of the people, on whom falls the penalty incurred by the ill advised rapacity of the minister, who devised the measure.

Quicquid delirant reges, plectuntur Achivi.

If the current of wealth from America be stopped or diverted, where are they to turn for resources? Of Brazil, since the removal of the Portuguese Court thither, we hear nothing. A change of measures would have profitted that government more than a change of place. The next month in all probability must decide the fate of Spain. We have already expressed our fears on their account. The circumstances that have since occurred have contributed but little to their removal. If they could not expel 40,000 men, how can they resist the hosts that will now attack them? Yet we cannot but admire the high spirit which actuates them in this trying emergency. For indeed, we should not wish to ascribe the resistance of Spain to any other agency than to the virtue and valour of her people; we should not wish to ascribe it, even in part, to the monachism of that country (too long its real *monarchy*) raising an ignorant and superstitious mass, in the defence of those revenues which they dread to lose by revolution; and perhaps, in some degree, to Great Britain prompting this resistance, with the immediate view of engaging the attention of the enemy, and the ultimate prospect of an El Dorado in Spanish America. No, be the resistance ascribed wholly to the virtue and valour of the Spaniards, and to the public spirit of Britons*.

RUSSIA.

This power still continues to pursue the same path which it had followed before the meeting at Erfurth. Its union with France has been cemented; and it appears to employ more vigour in the attainment of its political objects. Whether any new project has been devised to extend its territory or second the views of the

* While the above was putting to press, intelligence from Spain has arrived, of a nature very different indeed from what the sanguine expectation of many has looked upon as certain, and what has been the ardent wish of all. Bonaparte has rushed down from the Pyrenees with an army whose numbers we as yet know not of, but by their effects; and has swept away the patriot forces with the impetuosity of an irresistible torrent. The same accounts informed us that the French were at Burgos and Valladolid. Their intention evidently seems to be to prevent the British forces under Sir John Moore in the South, from forming a junction with Sir D. Baird's army in the North, and if possible to cut them to pieces separately. Blake's army is dispersed. From Castanos and Palafox we hear nothing. Sir John Moore is at Salamanca with a part of his troops, whilst the rest are following by different courses, as the badness of the roads, and the difficulty of procuring sustenance permit. Sir D. Baird is at Astorga. The transports are ordered to remain at Corunna, to be ready for the worst. Such is the scene at present, how it may change before we again address the public, no one (but ONE) can tell. We can only express our wishes that the torrent may be checked; by what means, we dare not offer even a conjecture.

French Emperor is yet uncertain. We are told of armies moving to the frontiers of Turkey; that the dismemberment of some of the northern provinces of this empire, may have constituted one of the topics of deliberation at Erfurth, we can readily believe: but we have not as yet grounds from which to draw conclusions.

SWEDEN.

Sweden still maintains an unequal contest with her powerful neighbour. If late accounts be true, which however are not yet fully confirmed, she has experienced a signal defeat. A predatory war is still carried on in the frontiers of Norway, attended with various success, but with few political consequences.

TURKEY.

This nation displays a spirit of reform, originating within itself, and therefore adopted with less danger and greater probability of success: yet, as the change depends on a single man, in the precarious office of vizier, whose life is so often at the mercy of an unruly and incensed soldiery, there is much reason to doubt of the ultimate success of his bold attempt. The Janizaries though depressed must be a formidable body; and the offers made to them of exchanging the rights of their order for a private recompense may yet fail: for they must be sensible that by the dissolution of their body they not only lose their importance in the state; but also surrender the only means of receiving the pecuniary provision granted them as a compensation. The means employed to depress them by forming another body of the same nature is but a temporising expedient: the new levy may for a time be obedient to the Minister, if he be a man of ability; but they will soon know their own strength, and prove more formidable because better trained than their predecessors. The other changes are trivial. The introduction of the European tactics will not be of any great service: in the practice of customs alien to their ancient habits and prejudices, they must be inferior to the European soldier, in whom they have been engrafted, by long use. The Romans improved their armies by the imitation of foreign countries, but it was not a servile imitation which copies without judgment; they did not overturn their old system, from an innovating thirst after novelty, but incorporated on it, those practices which experience had shown could be advantageously applied. With respect to the internal government, the change of tactics is unimportant; in a military despotism, it matters little whether the many-headed monarch rule by the bayonet or the sword. At the present moment, however, the vigorous conduct of Mustapha Bairactar may serve to ward off the impending blow that threatens from the north and west. He has reduced the Pachas to obedience; he has appeased the Servian chief; he has punished the murderers of their former sovereign; he has introduced order in place of confusion, and obedience in place of anarchy. But degenerate as is the Ottoman government, it is to be feared that nothing but revolution or conquest will work a change by which the situation of the great mass of the people will be ameliorated.

AUSTRIA.

The views of this power seem not to be clearly understood. Before the meeting at Erfurth, Francis was generally thought to be in a high degree inimical to the French emperor. But, though he did not attend in person at that meeting, his intentions appear to be so far pacific as to authorize the removal of the greater part of the French troops collected to watch his motions, to the new theatre of war; yet, his acquiescence in the schemes of his powerful neighbours seems to be the result rather of sullen inability than cordial co-operation. Of this the French Government appears to be sensible. In all the public declarations of Bonaparte or his ministers a great degree of caution and reserve in respect to the situation of this Empire is observable. Scarcely yet recovered from the dreadful blow received at Ulm and repeated at Austerlitz, aggression on the part of Austria would be rashness. But it is not improbable, that the present military preparations which have evidently excited much suspicion and distrust, are made not so much, for present service, as

to be ready to take advantage of any favourable combination of events which may hereafter occur. But let it be remarked, that such conduct might also terminate in utter ruin, and final extinction of her empire. Let her be lessoned by Ulm and Austerlitz. Let her consolidate within, by good government, and not risque her existence, by speculating upon new Coalitions.

The example of Spain may prove that the only effectual spring of resistance, the only pure source of independence rests in the people; Bonaparte has domineered over Kings and Emperors; he has been checked by a people contending for freedom.

AMERICA.

The embargo still continues in this country, nor can any change be expected till the meeting of Congress. The election of the new president will then be a trial of strength between the parties. In consequence of the interruption of communication between the two countries, our knowledge of its internal situation must be very imperfect. We have however reason to suppose that the contending parties are nearly balanced, and that their mutual dissensions are every day increasing to a higher degree of animosity. But dissensions like these show an energy and superabundance of life in the body politic. They give employment and vent to the busy and active spirit of man, and like the agitations of the ocean, which prevent it corrupting, they keep the mass from that stagnation, which forebodes the decay and death of liberty. *Mens agitat molem.* "But the subjects of the Byzantine empire," says Gibbon, "who assume and dishonour the names both of Greeks and Romans, present *a dead uniformity of abject vices*, which are neither softened by the weakness of humanity, nor animated by the vigour of memorable crimes." Let modern nations dread such a situation rather than political dissensions, which, in reality, tend to the full developement of all their powers.

ENGLAND.

The insulting answer given by the English minister to the demand for inquiry made by the city of London has been attended with effects very different from the fond hopes of those who framed it, but highly worthy of the spirit of liberty with which every English subject should be animated. Meetings have been held in several counties, and addresses sent in, all expressing, still more strongly than that which had been the mark of royal disapprobation, the feeling of injured honour which pervades the country. Irritating as the answer has been, it will be of use. It will teach ministers that the feelings of a great and free people are not to be trifled with; that the public mind, so long paralyzed with false terrors has resumed its energy; that there is a bond of union between every part of the kingdom, which, like a system of nerves branching from the head and extending its ramifications to the remotest extremity, will cause an injury done to one part to be felt and resented by the whole. No answer has as yet been received to any of the county addresses, unless the frigid and laconic notification made by the minister of home affairs, to the deputation from Middlesex, deserves that name*. But though they may not be answered, they will be felt.

The court of inquiry is at present sitting on Sir H. Dalrymple, and the other officers. His conduct and address to the court will tend to diminish, though by no means to remove the odium excited against him. While he endeavours to defend the convention itself, he openly imputes to Sir A. Wellesley at least an equal share of responsibility, which the latter officer endeavours ineffectually to shake off. Considered in this light as tending to disemburthen one general from the too great share of blame which was with such artful and persevering industry heaped upon his shoulders, and to destroy the false gloss with which the conduct of another general had with equal art and industry been varnished, the court of inquiry may be of use; but if this is the *inquiry* held out in the answer to the citizens of London, if by this *the character of the country*, and *the honour of the royal arms* is to stand or fall; if this is to be the court of ultimate jurisdiction; if a military tribunal is to decide on

* See Official Documents.

questions affecting the constitution, great indeed will be the insult; degraded the people that will not deeply resent and thoroughly avenge it. Yet under such circumstances as those (and we cannot but again remark it) the parliament has been prorogued. A case so novel, so unexpected, so important was not thought sufficient to claim a present and thorough investigation; but, if it is to be laid before the only tribunal which can constitutionally inquire into and decide upon it in all its parts, it is to be passed to in the regular routine of business, as one of the usual orders of the day.

IRELAND.

The disturbances which have so long disgraced the southern counties of this kingdom, still exist; every provincial paper contains a catalogue of nocturnal depredation, detection and punishment: yet neither the activity of the magistrates, the severity of the laws, nor the rigour of punishment check the evil. Would it not be time to try other measures; to make the experiment, by substituting conciliation for severity, whether the spirit of turbulent lawlessness be a propensity inherent in the national character, or ingrafted into it by an injudicious system of legislation? These melancholy and reiterated transgressions of the public peace, have given the Catholic clergy an opportunity of coming forward as peace-makers. Their prelates have gone through the most disturbed districts, inculcating the doctrines of peace and submission to the constituted authorities. Does the Protestant clergy follow the example? Does the archbishop imitate the example of his spiritual brother, and aid him in preaching the doctrines common to Catholic and Protestant, the doctrine of peace on earth, goodwill towards man? Do the beneficed clergy, each in his sphere second the pious labours of his superior? Do those who hold the office of magistrate, perform the office of protector as well as prosecutor? We doubt not that they do all this: we cannot but suppose, that though no public mention is made of their performance of these duties, for which they are so liberally paid, content with the approbation of their own hearts, they unite their private exertions with those of their Catholic brethren. The Protestant clergy have much in their power; they can do much to tranquillize the country; the mode adopted to pay them is the chief cause of grievance; the manner of collection, the principal part of that grievance. This lies solely with themselves. Much, therefore, does it become them, in the present crisis, when every man makes some sacrifice for the preservation of the state, to yield in part from their right, rather than to increase the outcry by a rigorous, though legal exaction of their full emoluments.

The inferior Protestant clergy have lately attracted some share of parliamentary notice. An act has been passed last Sessions for the amelioration of their state. The Archbishop of Dublin seconds the intention of the legislature, by recommending, at his triennial visitation, the beneficed clergy in his diocese to pay the full salary to their curates. We doubt not that he enforces his precept by his example; and that by devoting some of his princely revenue to this work of benevolence, he proves that he does not impose burthens on others of which he declines to take a share. The state of the clergy, Protestant, Catholic and Dissenting is capable of much amelioration; policy as well as justice requires it to be done.

Amid all the din of arms, and the disputes attendant on military affairs, the philanthropist has to regret that the attention of statesmen is too seldom turned to affording practical relief to the burthens of the people. If both the rulers and the ruled directed their views to this object, they would do more to ameliorate the condition of mankind, and enjoy a more peaceable and bloodless victory, than by engaging in the contests of "the tented field." Nay, by such measures internal security would be best promoted, and foreign annoyance more effectually frustrated. For a people happy at home would be less likely to wish for a change of situation in hopes of bettering their condition. But unhappily governors too generally think they have a distinct interest from the people, and what is gained by them is lost to them-

selves. They consider that a kind of glory, false, however, unstable and short-lived in its nature, is reflected on them by the military achievements carried on under their auspices, and in a time of war they have favourable pretexts for laying additional taxes on the people, and thus increasing their patronage and emolument by "the cheese-parings of office," by which the cheese itself, the property of the people, is often essentially diminished.

As a plan for removing a grievance, which presses heavily on the poorer classes of the community, we may refer to the subject of tithes as taken up by some counties during the present year. The county of Kerry led the way by a petition to parliament, and the Grand Jury of the county Armagh, at the spring assizes of the present year, unanimously instructed their representatives to support a modification of the tithe system in parliament, and alledged that exorbitant demands have been made by some of the clergy and their proctors in collecting tithe, "to the very great oppression of their parishioners, and tending at this time, in particular, to detach the minds of his Majesty's subjects from their loyalty and attachment."

To this address the beneficed clergy of the county Armagh reply, by calling upon the late grand jury to substantiate their charges, and as is common to those who have a bad cause, they endeavour to draw off attention from their own proceedings, by attempting to inculpate others, and instead of defending themselves on the merits of their case, allude to the rise of rents and county rates, as a set off against the landlords and grand jurors. At the summer assizes, fourteen of the grand jury had the resolution to support the address of the former grand jury, and in answer to the beneficed clergy, being forced into a controversy about particular facts, they published an affidavit supporting an instance of an exorbitant rate of tithe demanded in the neighbourhood of Newry. It is not our business to enter into this local controversy, but to take up the subject on more general grounds.

We dislike the attempt, not only practised on this occasion, but also very generally by the advocates for tithe, to render the subject more complex, by blending with it other supposed grievances. County taxes are sometimes, nay, perhaps often improvidently levied, but if the clergy are seriously disposed to have the public burthen in this respect alleviated, let them then honestly bring it forward as a subject of separate consideration. As to the rents, there appears no way of public interference, except by a violation of private property, and an attempt at establishing an agrarian system. We cannot suppose the clergy are serious in this plan, and that their view can be only to distract the public attention from looking too closely into the present mode of collecting tithe.

Let us take a short review of this subject, considered by itself. It is an oppressive tax on agriculture, and tends to prevent the improvement of land. From the manner of its being levied, it is partial in its operation; as in many counties where grazing is mostly followed, in consequence of the absurd vote of agistment, the burthen falls almost exclusively on the small farm of the poor cotter, while the wealthy grazier pays a very small proportion. It differs from rent, which latter is of a more fixed kind, so that the occupier knows what he has to pay during his lease; while if even a lease of tithe is given, it is only during incumbency, and we know that the clerical body are not unacquainted with the means of exchanging livings, by which they can lay aside a bargain of this kind, if they suppose it to militate against their interest.

But over and above all these considerations, a greater hardship still remains. Many of the inhabitants of this country, and in many places the poorer classes, especially, are not members of the establishment. These are peculiarly inconvenienced by having to support their own clergy, and pay tithe to a priesthood of whose instruction they do not participate. To give an instance near at home, in the island of Rathlin, on the northern coast of this county, out of about one hundred and forty families, who a few years ago inhabited this island, upwards of one

hundred and thirty were Catholics. These paid 100*l.* per annum to their own priest, and thirteen-fourteenths of another 100*l.* per annum to the Protestant rector. In many other parishes in Ireland, the proportion of Catholic inhabitants, it is presumed, bears a proportion equally great. Is not this a grievance in many cases, bearing peculiarly hard on the poorer classes of our population.

On the subject of the hereditary claim of tithes, the clergy have no right to immutability. No one is born a bishop or a rector. In this point of view the usufructuary claimants of tithe stand on grounds essentially different from the proprietors of hereditary property.

In the general demand for investigation into the late transactions in Portugal, we observe, not without some degree of self-debasement, the total silence of this country. Yet Irish soldiers have fought and bled and conquered at Vimiera. Ireland has had its share of the triumph and cannot but participate in the disgrace; the character also of an Irish officer is involved; an officer holding a high official station in his native country; if unjustly involved in the disgrace of others, ought we not to demand an inquiry for the public declaration of his innocence; if justly implicated, ought we not to call aloud for an inquiry which would satisfy the injured feelings of a nation, whose darling birth-right is unimpeached valour, and a high-wrought sense of inborn honour. Yet Ireland is silent....neither a feeling of native dignity, nor the example of a sister kingdom has roused her from a state of torpid apathy.

.....Alas! poor country,
Almost afraid to know itself!.....

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

Decree of the King of Holland, revoking the permission to export certain commodities.
17*th*, *Oct.* 1808.

"I. All exportation is suspended until further orders.

"II. The superintendance of the coast shall be divided into three districts: 1. From the Helder to the Island of Walcheren, shall be commanded by General Dumonceau. 2. From the Helder to Harlingen by Admiral De Winter. 3. From Harlingen to the Jahde, by General Castanet.

"III. The commanding Generals shall be personally responsible for the execution of the existing measures relating to the *total shutting* of the ports of the kingdom, the communication with the enemy, as well as for all those we may hereafter order. There shall be a daily report made by them to the minister, or *immediately* to the King; and they are required to give an account of the negligence or disinclination of the civil and military agents.

"IV. All fishing boats shall be compelled to return to the place from whence they sailed, and they shall not be admitted any where else, even under the pretence that they have received damage. If they shall be found to have any proofs of having communicated with the enemy on board, such as strangers not belonging to their crews; the least package of merchandize of any kind; letters or newspapers, they shall become the property of the civil or military authorities who assist in seizing them, as soon as the legality of the seizure shall have been determined by the Judge, who must pronounce a definitive sentence in the course of fifteen days at farthest.

"V. All merchant vessels, whether bearing the Dutch or a foreign flag, which shall attempt to enter any of the harbours or roads in the above-mentioned districts, shall be warned off by a boat, and apprized that they will be fired upon if they attempt to enter.

The President Jefferson's Answer to the Dissent of the Republicans from the Proceedings of the Town of Boston, relative to the Embargo.

"I have duly received the address of that portion of the citizens of Boston who have declared their approbation of the present suspension of our commerce, and their dissent from the representation of those of the same place, who wished its removal. A division of sentiment was not unexpected: on no question can a perfect unanimity be hoped, or certainly it would have been on that between war and embargo, the only alternatives presented to our choice; for the general capture of our vessels would have been war upon one side, which reason and interest would repel by war and reprisal on our part.

"Of the several interests, comprising those of the United States, that of manufactures would of course prefer to war a state of non-intercourse so favourable to their rapid growth and prosperity.

"Agriculture, although sensibly feeling the loss of market for its produce, would find many aggravations in a state of war.

"Commerce and navigation, or that portion which is foreign, in the inactivity to which they are reduced by the present state of things, certainly experience their full share in the general inconvenience; but whether war would be to them a preferable alternative, is a question that patriotism would never hastily propose. It is to be regretted, however, that overlooking the real sources of sufferings, the British and French edicts, which constitute the actual blockade of our foreign commerce and navigation, they have with too little reflection imputed them to laws which have preserved them from greater, and have saved for our own use, our vessels, property, and seamen, instead of adding them to the strength of those with whom we might eventually have to contend.

"The embargo, giving time to the Belligerent Powers to revise their unjust proceedings, and to listen to the dictates of justice or interest and reputation, which equally urge the correction of their wrongs, has availed our country of this only honourable expedient of avoiding war, and should a repeal of these edicts supersede the cause for it, our commercial brethren will become sensible, that it has consulted their interest, however against their own will. It will be unfortunate for their country, if, in the mean time, these their expressions of impatience should have the effect of prolonging the very sufferings which have produced them, by exciting a fallacious hope that we may, under any pressure, relinquish our equal rights of navigating the ocean, go to such ports as reason may prescribe, and there pay the tributary exactions they may impose; and an abandonment of national independence and essential rights revolting to every manly sentiment. *While these edicts are in force, no American can ever consent to a return of peaceable intercourse with those who maintain them.*

"I am in the approach of the period when the feelings and the wisdom of the nation will be collected in their Representatives assembled together. To them are committed our rights, to them our wrongs are known, and they will pronounce the remedy they call for; and I hear with pleasure from all, as well those who approve as those who disapprove of the present measures, assurances of an implicit acquiescence in the annunciation of the general will. I beg leave, through you, to communicate this Answer to the Address, on which your signature had the first place, and to add assurances of my respect.

(Signed) TH. JEFFERSON."

To Colonel Edward Proctor.

To Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States of America, the Petition of the Subscribers, Officers of Merchant Ships, belonging to the Port of Philadelphia.

"RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH—That, in consequence of the present Embargo-Laws the situation of your Petitioners is grievous and afflicting; that they have been engaged in the mercantile service since their infancy, without exceptions, and accustomed only to conduct ships or vessels across the ocean—that from the operation of the present restrictive laws, they find themselves cut off from their usual employment, and of course the means of subsistence are gone.

"Your Petitioners are well acquainted with the duties of conducting ships from port to port—well versed in naval tactics, but unable to handle the harrow or plough.

"Your Petitioners have for a long time borne with patience the privations incident to those restrictive laws, without murmur or complaint—but, when imperious necessity compels them to disclose the cause of their grievances, they humbly suppose they have a right so to do in a decent and respectful manner.

"Your Petitioners therefore pray that your Excellency will take their case into consideration, and adopt such measures as will relieve the wants of your Petitioners; or if there are vacancies in the navy, to give your Petitioners, or some of them, an opportunity of serving therein, as they think themselves capable of performing services of that nature.

"They, however, submit their whole cause to your consideration, hoping your Excellency will adopt such measures as wisdom and justice may point out, and, as in duty bound, will pray, &c.

Philadelphia, August 10, 1808."

PRESIDENT'S ANSWER.

"SIR—In answer to the petition which you delivered me from the officers of merchant vessels belonging to Philadelphia, I must premise my sincere regret at the sacrifices which our fellow-citizens in general, and the Petitioners in particular, have been obliged to meet, by the circumstances of the times. We live in an age of affliction, to which the history of nations presents no parallel—we have for years been looking on Europe covered with blood and violence, and seen rapine spreading itself over the ocean. On this element it has reached us,

and at length in so serious a degree, that the legislature of the nation has thought it necessary to withdraw our citizens and property from it, either to avoid or to prepare for engaging in the general contest. But for this timely precaution, the Petitioners and their property might now have been in the hand of spoilers, who have laid aside all regard to moral right. Withdrawing from the greater evil, a lesser one has been necessarily encountered; and certainly could the legislature have made provision against this also, I should have had great pleasure as the instrument of its execution; but it was impracticable by any general and just rules to prescribe, in every case, the best resource against the inconveniences of this new situation. The difficulties of the crisis will certainly fall with greater pressure on some description of citizens than others, and on some perhaps with greater than on our seafaring brethren. Should any means of alleviation occur within the range of my duties, I shall with certainty advert to the situation of the Petitioners, and in availing the nation of their services, aid them with a substitute for their former occupation.—I salute them and yourself with sentiments of sincere regard.

TH. JEFFERSON."

THE ADDRESS OF NAPOLEON TO THE LEGISLATIVE BODY.

Messieurs, the Deputies of the Departments, to the Legislative Body.

"The code of laws, laying down the principles of property and of civil freedom, which forms the subject of your labours, will be adopted as the sentiment of Europe. My people already experience the most salutary effects from them.

"The latest laws have laid the foundation of our system of finance. That is a monument of the might and greatness of France. We shall henceforward be able to meet the expenditure which might be rendered necessary, even by a general coalition of Europe, from our yearly income alone.

"Never shall we be reduced to have recourse to the fatal expedients of paper money, of loans, or of anticipations of revenue.

"I have, in the present year, laid out more than a thousand miles of road. The system of works which I have established for the improvement of our territory, will be carried forward with zeal.

"The prospect of the great French family, lately torn to pieces by opinions and intestine rancour, but now prosperous, tranquil, and united, has affected my soul in a remarkable manner. I have felt that, in order to be happy, I should in the first place be assured that France was happy.

"The peace of Presburgh, that of Tilsit, the assault of Copenhagen, the plans of England against all nations on the ocean, the different revolutions at Constantinople, the affairs of Spain and Portugal have in various ways, exercised an influence on the affairs of the world.

"Russia and Denmark have united with me against England.

"The United States of America have rather chosen to abandon commerce and the sea, than to acknowledge their slavery.

"A part of my army has marched against that which England has formed in Spain, or has disembarked. It is a distinguished favour of that Providence, which has constantly protected our arms, that passion has so far blinded the English Councils, that they abandon the defence of the seas, and at last produce their army on the Continent.

"I depart in a few days to put myself in person at the head of my army, and with God's help, to crown the King of Spain in Madrid, and to plant my Eagles on the forts of Lisbon.

"I have only to praise the sentiments of the Princes of the confederation of the Rhine.

"Switzerland experiences more and more the benefits of the act of mediation.

"The people of Italy give me grounds for nothing but expressions of satisfaction.

"The Emperor of Russia and myself have had an interview at Erfurth. Our first thought was a thought of peace. We have even resolved to make some sacrifices, in order to enable the hundred millions of men whom we represent, if possible, the sooner to enjoy the benefits of the commerce of the seas. We are agreed, and unchangeably united, as well for peace as for war.

"MESSIEURS DEPUTIES—I have ordered my ministers of finance, and of the general treasury, to lay before you an account of the receipt and expenditure of the year. You will therein see, with satisfaction, that I have not felt it necessary to increase the tarif with any impost. My people shall experience no new burthen.

"The Speakers of my Council of State will submit to you many plans of laws, and among others all those which have relation to the criminal code.

"I rely constantly on your co-operation."

Address of the Freeholders of the County of Middlesex.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

"We, your Majesty's loyal subjects, the Freeholders of the County of Middlesex, feeling in common with the rest of our countrymen deep regret and indignation at the late events in Portugal, which have disappointed our most sanguine hopes and our best-founded expectations, pray your Majesty to take into your consideration this our most loyal statement and petition.

We prejudge the case of no man: but we feel under such circumstances of national disappointment, that to demand a strict, a rigorous, and impartial inquiry into all its causes is not only an immutable principle of justice, but has been the invariable practice of our ancestors.

Without such an inquiry, the guilty cannot be fairly brought to punishment, nor can the characters of the innocent who may be suspected be effectually vindicated and restored.

When we reflect that our armies and our fleets are composed of men of the same description, and drawn from the same sources, that our engagements at sea always shed new lustre on the navy, and always add to the national security, while our victories on land are generally unavailing, and often lead to disgrace, we cannot persuade ourselves that the whole blame in the late transactions is attributable to our commanders.

We suspect that it may be owing either to some radical defect in our military system, or to the incapacity or misconduct of those by whose counsels the efforts of your Majesty's land forces are directed, and to whose judgment and discretion the management of the army is entrusted: that such defect, incapacity, or misconduct, cannot be remedied by a court-martial, or by any military court of inquiry.

We therefore pray your Majesty, not only to order courts martial to be held on the conduct of all the Officers who advised or signed either the armistice or convention in Portugal, but to recommend to the parliament, to institute such a public investigation into all the causes and circumstances of these transactions, as may lead to the adoption of such measures and salutary reforms, as may secure the punishment of the guilty, however high their station, and prevent the recurrence of similar calamities.

And we assure your Majesty, that whoever advised you to rebuke the Lord Mayor and corporation of the city of London, for their late loyal Petition, acted in defiance of the principles which seated your Majesty on the throne, and in contempt and violation of the undoubted rights and liberties of your people, asserted at all times by our ancestors, and finally secured to us at the revolution by the bill of rights."

ANSWER OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Whitehall, Nov. 16, 1808.

GENTLEMEN,

"I have laid before his Majesty the petition which I received from you, as Sheriffs of London and Middlesex, from the meeting of the Freeholders of the county of Middlesex, held at Hackney, on the 7th of this month.

I am, gentlemen, &c.

HAWKESBURY."

To the Sheriffs of London and Middlesex.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, NOV. 19.

Transmitted by Admiral Young, Commander in Chief at Plymouth.

Amethyst, Humoaze, Nov. 15.

MY LORD,

"I have the most sincere pleasure in acquainting you, that his Majesty's ship the Amethyst, under my command, captured on the 10th inst. at night, the French frigate La Thetis, of 44 guns, and a crew of 330 men, who had served years together, and 106 soldiers from L'Orient for Martinique. Being close to the N. W. point of Groa, she was seen a quarter before seven, P. M. and immediately chased; and a close action began before 10 o'clock, which continued with little intermission till 20 minutes after midnight. Having fallen on board for a short time after 10, and from a quarter past 11, when she intentionally laid us on board, till she surrendered (about an hour) she lay fast along side, the fluke of our best bower anchor having entered her foremast main-deck port, and she was, after great slaughter, boarded and taken possession of, and some prisoners received from her, before we disengaged the ships. Shortly after, a ship of war was seen closing fast under a press of sail, which proved to be the Triumph, which immediately gave us the most effectual assistance that the anxious and feeling mind of such an officer as Sir Thomas Hardy could suggest. At half past one, the Shannon joined, received prisoners from, and took La Thetis in tow. She is wholly dismasted, dreadfully shattered, and had her commander (Pinsun, Capitaine de

Vaisseau) and 135 men killed; 102 wounded, amongst whom are all her officers, except three. The Amethyst has lost 19 killed, and 51 wounded, amongst the former is Lieut. Bernard Kindall, a most promising young officer, of the Royal Marines, who suffered greatly; and that invaluable officer, Lieut. S. J. Payne, dangerously wounded; the mizen mast shot away, and the ship much damaged and leaky. No language can convey an adequate idea of the cool and determined bravery shown by every officer and man of this ship; and their truly noble behaviour has laid me under the greatest obligation.

The assistance I received from my gallant friend, the First Lieutenant, Mr. Goddard Blennerhasset, an Officer of great merit and ability, is beyond all encomium. Lieutenants Hill and Crouch, and Mr Fair, the Master (whose admirable exertions, particularly at the close of the action, when the enemy was on fire, the boarders employed, and the ship had suddenly made two feet water, surmounted all difficulties) and are happily preserved to add lustre to his Majesty's service. In justice to Monsieur Dede, the surviving Commander of La Thetis, I must observe, he acted with singular firmness, and was the only Frenchman on the quarter-deck, when we boarded her.—I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL SEYMOUR."

Amiral Lord Gambier, &c.

N. B. Dimensions of La Thetis—length, 162 feet; breadth, 41 feet, 6 inches; 28 eighteen-pounders (twenty-four pounds English) on the main deck; 12 thirty-six-pounders (forty-two pounds English) on the quarter-deck; 4 eight-pounders on the forecastle. One thousand barrels of flour on board, beside known stores.

This Gazette contains a copy of the dispatches received by Lord Castlereagh, from Lieut. General Beckwith, commanding at Barbadoes, and inclosing the letter of Lieut.-Colonel Blackwell, of the 4th W. I. regiment, detailing the operations of the force under the command of the latter, at Mariegalante, in repelling the attack of a detachment of French troops, under Colonel Gabriels, from Guadaloupe. The whole of these details have been anticipated by the Barbadoes papers of the 14th September, with the exception, that the detachment, in this official account is stated to have returned to Barbadoes.

Return of prisoners of war who surrendered—4 Captains, 8 Lieutenants, 162 rank and file, and 1 Staff.

N. B. One Lieutenant, and 1 rank and file of Artillery included.

List of Officers, and names of prisoners—Captain Bagnie, Commandant; Captain Olivier, etat Major; Captains Cazy and Huart; Lieut. Monte, of the Artillery; Lieutenants Leal, Payem, Artcaul, Despreaux, Frachard, Alegre, and Lorcis.

Return of arms, ammunition, and accoutrements taken and destroyed—One field-piece, 450 firelocks, 200 belts and pouches, and 24 kegs of ball cartridges. Ammunition for field-piece not ascertained.

PROVINCIAL OCCURRENCES.

ULSTER.

The following notice which has been circulated through the county of Cavan well deserves to be known and recommended.

Lord Frankfort will give a loom, value 5*l.* 10*s.* to each of the first five tenants on his estate in the county of Cavan, who shall properly cultivate five acres of hemp; and in the same proportion to the next six who shall cultivate a quantity of land, not less than two acres each; this to be over and above all public encouragement for the year 1809. His Lordship also engages to take on himself any loss or failure which may be occasioned by the attempt.—Further particulars may be had by application to J. Tatlow, esq. Agent to Lord Frankfort.

On the 4th of this month a very fine vessel belonging to Mr. Langtry, was launched from Mr. Ritchie's Dock, and went off the stocks in capital style. She was named the "DONEGALL," in compliment to the Marquis, who has so justly acquired the respect and esteem of all ranks, as, "the best of Landlords." The vessel is intended for the London Trade. Its elegant structure does infinite credit to the taste of the Ship-builder. The day being fine, a great concourse of people attended to witness the gratifying scene.

Early on Sunday morning, the 6th ult. a cotton-mill near Stoneyford, ten miles

from Belfast, was discovered to be on fire. The flames had obtained such an ascendancy before they were perceived, that every exertion to extinguish them proved ineffectual, and the whole factory, containing much valuable property, was completely destroyed. The cause of the conflagration is not known, and we are sorry to learn there was no insurance.

ANTRIM.....*Married*.....In Belfast, Mr. Wm. M'Guickan, to Miss J. Knox. Mr. S. Barret of Dublin, to Miss Hamilton, daughter of H. Hamilton, esq. of this town. Mr. C. Lenon, of Malone, to Miss Sibbalds, of Ballymacarret. Mr. Wm. Wilson, to Miss Martha Walker. Mr. John Donnelly, merchant of Belfast, to Miss Moore of Crookedstone. Mr. John Laird, of Carrickfergus, to Miss Agnes Hill, of Island Magee. In Belfast, Mr. R. English, to Miss Eliza Mulvea. Rev. Wm. Brown, to Miss Auchenleck. Mr J. S. Girven, of Coleraine, to Miss Mary Jackson, of Grieve, Co. Monaghan. Mr. H. Allen, to Miss Stewart, both of Belfast.

Died.....In Belfast, Mrs. Goyer, wife of Mr. Goyer, master of the English School in the Belfast Academy. Mr. Wm. Bryson, of Donegall-street. At Portpatrick, on his way to Ireland, Val. Joyce, esq

ARMAGH....*Married*..... Mr. T Corbett, of Turner's Grove, to Miss Andrews of Annesborough, Co. Down. Mr. Alexander M'Cullogh Mercht. to Miss Jane Hamilton, daughter of David Hamilton of Pine-grove, esq.

DOWN.....*Married*.....Mr. Wm. Rea of Edenderry, aged 73, to Miss Lucinda Lee, of Drumshee, aged 21. The circumstances attending this marriage are somewhat singular, as he lived to this period without ever thinking of entering into such a situation, though possessed of an immense property; but thinking his friends might have disputes, in consequence thereof he married this young woman who had been his housekeeper. At Newry, Mr. R. Hamerton, to Mrs. Mourton, both of the Belfast theatre. Patrick Boyle, esq. of Newry, to Miss Geoghegan, of Ardee. At Cultra, David Verner, of Churchill, Co. Armagh, esq. to Miss Cole. At Downpatrick, Gilbert O'Grady, of the Co. Limerick Militia to Miss Vernon.

Died.....At Rathfriland, Mrs. Denham, aged 74.

DONEGALL....*Died*....At Ballyshanon R. Allingham, esq. His death was caused by bathing in the morning after enjoying himself with some friends the preceding night. Mrs Carey, wife of Lucius Carey, of Redcastle, esq.

FERMANAGH.....*Married*.....Benjamin Armstrong, esq. of the Fermanagh Militia, to Miss Mary Faucett, daughter of Dr. Faucett, co. Sligo.

LONDONDERRY.....*Married*.....Mr. S. Walker to Miss Walker.

Died....A. Grayson esq. aged 81. At Castledawson aged 106, Mrs. M. Richardson. She was attended to the grave by her children, grand children, and great grand childen.

MONAGHAN....*Died*...Mr. James Mollan, merchant.

LEINSTER.

The following letter has been sent from Dr. O'Reilly, the titular bishop of Armagh, to the Roman Catholic gentlemen of the county of Louth, who had written to him, requesting to know his opinion of the Resolution lately entered into by the Roman Catholic Bishops in Dublin.

"I think, and am certain, that in forming their Resolution the Prelates did not mean to decide, that the admission of a *veto* or *negative* on the part of the Crown, with the consent of the Holy See, in the election of Roman Catholic Bishops, would be contrary to the doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church, or to any practice or usage *essentially* and *indispensably* connected with the Roman Catholic Religion. Candour, however, and truth oblige me to say, that the declaration made by the Bishops on the above-mentioned occasion, was dictated by what I long conceived to be a well-founded apprehension, that the concession in question might eventually be attended with consequences dangerous to the Roman Catholic Religion; such danger, in my mind, and in the opinion of several other prelates, is of a temporary nature, resulting from existing circumstances, though many persons suppose it to arise from the nature of the measure, thus giving to the Resolution of the Bishops a meaning it does not bear."

DROGHEDA, Nov. 1. Yesterday the last fair for this year was held. The different markets were crowded beyond any thing we have seen for some years. The number of black cattle was very great; fat bullocks and cows were considered reasonable; those of an inferior quality, low and few purchasers; on the whole it is supposed they were full ten per cent lower than last year. There was also a very great show of sheep: weathers fit for immediate use, sold from 40s. to 45s. 6d.; those in very high condition, 50s. but few at the latter price. The grazier de-

clares that the butcher only has the profit. This is tolerably evident from the state of our market. Beef by the quarter, 1*l.* 17s. 4d. to 2l. 6s. 8d. per cwt.; prime pieces, 6½d. per pound. Several hundred pigs were at market. Some few years back there appeared a great improvement in the breed of those animals, but we are sorry to find they are declining fast. Lord Conyngham, at a great expense, imported some English and valuable Chinese boars, for the improvement of the breed in the counties of Meath and Louth, and for some time his Lordship's laudable and patriotic intentions promised the desired effect.

There was a great transfer of property in this market, and the prices were unusually high. This is accounted for from the fortunate produce of the potatoe crops this year; they are remarkably abundant and fine. Of horses we can say little; but very few good ones made their appearance and for those there appeared scarcely a buyer. There were a number of inferior hacks and work-horses, and no purchasers. The jockies said they never had so bad a fair. Wooll sold from 16s. 6d. to 19s. 6d. Some very fine brought 1l. 2s. 9d. per stone.

It is creditable to this part of Ireland, that we never had to record any serious quarrel taking place on our fair-days, notwithstanding the multitudes that resort to this town from six or seven counties.

CARLOW...*Died*...E. Eustace, of Castlemore, esq.

DUBLIN.....*Married*.....Mr. Brash, Jun. to Miss Pasley, daughter of the late S. H. Pasley, esq. of Dollymount. Mr. S. Walker, of Bishop-street, to Miss Walker, of William-street. Brigadier Gen. Campbell, to Miss Elizabeth Anne Pemberton, daughter to the Rev. T. Pemberton of Tough Byrne. Mr. Wm. Gasken, of College-green to Mrs. Martha Waters. Mr. Smith Jun. Nassau-street, to Miss E. M'Kew. Mr. P. Flynn, to Miss J. Daly.

DIED. In Capel-street, Mrs. Anne Fitzsimons, wife of Mr. H. Fitzsimons, hosier. Lieutenant B. Hoare, City Dublin Militia. Benjamin Hayes, esq. Barrister at law. In South Gt. Georges-street, Doctor Butler. Mrs. E. Keller, of Beresford-street. Alderman J. Vance, of Capel-street, In Marlborough-street, Mr. P. Downey. In Stephens-green, Mrs. Mary Cooke, relict of .... Cooke of Waterford esq In Temple-street, A. Adams esq. In Mount-joy Square, Mr. P. S. Kennedy, Attorney. In Stephen's-green, Mrs. Homan, Relict of the Rev. P. Homan, of Rathfarnham. Rev. D. Blundell, Dean of Kildare and for many years rector of the parish of St. Mary.

KILKENNY.....*Died*.....Mrs. Blackney, wife of Walter Blackney of Ballycormick, Co. Carlow, esq.

KING'S Co.....*Married*.....A. Martin, M. D. to Miss Henrietta Adamson.

Died....At Parsonstown Mr T. Smith.

QUEEN'S Co....*Died*....At Cuffesborough, Miss Catherine Prior, daughter of Capt. Prior of Rathdowney.

LONGFORD....*Died*....At Mount Jessop, the Lady of the Rev. Dr. Jessop.

LOUTH.....*Married*.....John Fairtlough, esq. to Miss Lister of Dublin.

Died....At Drogheda, Mr. Dennis Reid, Mr. Pentony.

MEATH....*Married*....Capt John Owens, to Miss Mary Heeny, of Mornington, Co. Meath. Wm. Blayney Wade, of Cloneybraney, esq. to Miss Frances Carden, daughter of Sir John Craven Carden of Templemore, Co. Tipperary, Bart.

MUNSTER.

KERRY...*Married*, Captain Walker, of the 42d Foot, to Miss Penelope Leslie Johnston, daughter of the late Adam B. Johnston, esq. At Killarney, Pat. Stokes of Cork, esq. to Miss M'Donough daughter to J. M'Donough, esq.

CLARE....*Died*, at Laheen, Miss Mary Ann O'Brien, eldest daughter to J. O'Brien, of Limerick, esq.

CORK....*Married*, Rev C. L. Coghlan, of Glanmire, to Miss Cummins, daughter of Nicholas Cummins, esq. Captain Du Bois, to Miss Irwine.

MONTHLY AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From October 20, till November 20.

The fine dry weather which has continued for several weeks past, has been favourable for taking out the remainder of the Potatoe crops, which, with the high price of wheat has induced the sowing of that grain to an extent much beyond any thing practised in this Province for many years, and gives reason to hope that we shall be able in the ensuing season to export to England such a quantity as will prevent the inconvenience arising from the want of their usual supply from the Continent. Indeed if the lands of Ireland were cultivated in the manner they are capa-

ble of, suitable encouragement given to agriculture, and every obstacle to its extension removed, Great Britain would have no occasion to depend on a foreign Country for grain: her wants might be amply supplied from hence, and the immense sums of money annually sent to the Continent saved to the Empire.

MONTHLY COMMERCIAL REPORT.

In last Month's Report some notice was taken of the cotton trade, so far as its sudden fluctuations had an injurious effect on the morals of the weavers; and it may probably also be safely asserted, that consequences equally injurious attend the unsteady and fluctuating gains of their employers. In the present report, it may be allowed to show the hurtful effects both as to morals and health arising from the youth of both sexes mixing together promiscuously in such crowds as usually attend cotton-factories, from under parental care, unless the greatest precaution is taken to prevent the injurious consequences so likely to result. In the system of trade, man is too frequently considered as a machine, by whose labour money is to be put into the pockets of his employer, while his morals and health are totally disregarded. To a traveller through Lancashire and Yorkshire, these melancholy truths are strikingly obvious; and there is much reason to fear that morals are greatly deteriorating in these populous manufacturing districts. The writer of this report, had in 1806 the authority of a gentleman at the bar, who travelled the English Northern Circuit, and was in most extensive practice, that the number of crimes, and those of the greatest enormity, as appeared by the calendar, were rapidly increasing in these two counties. As manufactures extend in this country, there is reason to fear that the vices of idleness, which in some parts of Ireland arise from want of employment, may without great care be converted into the evils of trade, carried on with a disregard to what alone constitutes the happiness of a people, a system of sound morals. These warnings are given that sufficient care may be exercised by all concerned, who from their situation ought to be the *guardians* of those whom they employ, lest what under due regulation might prove of essential advantage as a blessing, should become a curse.

In England to attempt to remedy these evils, the legislature has interfered, and acts have been passed limiting the hours of work, enforcing the white-washing of the walls, and washing out the floors of factories, and requiring the masters to have their apprentices taught at least an hour every day in the necessary branches of school-learning. The Justices at quarter sessions are authorized to have these regulations enforced, and for that purpose to appoint visitors from their own body, to inspect the cotton factories within their respective districts. These laws extend to Ireland, but hitherto they have not been generally, if at all, executed. In Scotland, it is presumed that a stricter system prevails. At Rothsay in the isle of Bute, a large cotton mill exists, in which from its sequestered situation it is more easy to keep up a kind of family discipline, and in which parents and children are employed together. By the care of the employers it may be taken as a model for imitation to other factories. A schoolmaster is employed, who, instead of giving a confused and hurried instruction to all the children, for one or two hours in the day, to comply in some measure with the letter of the act of parliament, is in regular attendance through the day and by dividing the children into classes has ten or twelve of them with him for an hour at a time. The children thus improve, because it is an agreeable relaxation of an hour from their other work, and habits of regularity and economy of time are early formed in them. The workmen at this factory have a well chosen library formed by subscription among themselves, consisting of upwards of 300 volumes, for the amusement and improvement of their leisure hours.

If we turn to the linen trade as it is carried on in this country, we shall find many things in the manner of conducting it favourable to good morals. The youth are not assembled together in large multitudes; the daughters spin under the care of their mothers, while the sons are engaged with their fathers at the looms in their small weaving shops. The parental domestic care is not interrupted by a departure from that place of safety for youth, the family homestead; and if the father escape the danger of contracting the habitual practice of drinking to excess, when he attends the weekly market to purchase his yarn, and sell his linen, there is little to interrupt the happiness of the domestic circle, which as well "in the simple annals of the poor," as in higher situations, affords the most favourable spot for the growth and developement of virtuous principles. We may also add the advantages of the poor man having a few acres to cultivate. He thus diversifies his employment, and in spring and autumn encreases his stock

of health by exchanging his too sedentary engagement at the loom for the labours of the field. In the view of the agriculturist, who calculates only on profit, his lands may not appear so well cultivated, nor as much made of them, as in the hands of a farmer who occupied himself solely in agriculture: but the united character of weaver and farmer, and of bleacher and farmer produces a greater stock of comfort; he raises his own potatoes, and *his own* cow affords milk to his family. Probably the stock of national wealth is not encreased so much as by a contrary practice, and the nicety of the manufacture may suffer a little from his change of employment; but the happiness of individuals, which is of far more consequence than wealth, is doubtlessly greatly increased, as it is found that the owner of a few acres of land is much more comfortable than his neighbour who does not enjoy that advantage. We may be allowed with the honest exultation of benevolence, partaking in the happiness of others, to contrast the inmates of the country cabin possessing, in independence, a few acres of land, with the sickly inhabitants of the populous city, or large manufacturing town, unhealthily crowded together, in dirty rooms and an impure atmosphere, the victims of commercial avarice, to add by gains extracted from their labour to the wealth of the overgrown capitalist.

It is the wish of the writer of these reports to attempt to add importance to them by diversifying the subjects introduced, so that they may not altogether be a dry detail of commercial speculations.

To come now to the more immediate matter of a Commercial Report, it may be remarked, that the relaxation, of the restrictions on the exports from Holland was of very short continuance. The Dutch government studying the good of their subjects most probably gave the permission, which Bonaparte wholly intent on annoyance of the English, and regardless of the advantages of Holland, very likely commanded to be withdrawn, as soon as the permission to relax came to his knowledge.

Sugar has advanced 20*s.* per cwt. The West Indian trade has suffered greatly from low prices of late. In addition to which, the merchants having plantations in these islands are said to have been very improvident in the mode of managing their estates, while both they and their managers have indulged in luxury and sought to make up their losses by overworking the slaves in many instances to such a degree as that their avarice and cruelty have been defeated, and their losses encreased by the unprofitable and atrocious waste of "human sinews." Undoubtedly the West-Indian Merchants have suffered greatly, but yet little commiseration is justly due to them.

During the last Session of Parliament much discussion took place, and a committee was appointed to investigate the claims of the West Indian planters. In consequence a bill was passed to stop the distillation from grain, and to permit the use of sugar in the distilleries; during the discussions on this subject, neither of the parties appeared to take the right ground The supporters of the measure pleaded for it as nesessary to encourage the colonies; while it was opposed, lest it might prove hurtful to the agricultural interests of these countries.

The necessity of the measure, as a prevention against scarcity was seldom advanced. If the bill had passed more timely, it might have lowered the price of provisions during the last summer, and now we are pleased to see that government have signified their intention of continuing the prohibition of distilling from grain until the meeting of Parliament; a measure which appears highly necessary from the grain of last harvest being less productive than usual, and from the fears, that the ports of America, and the Baltic may not be open to us to afford the usual supplies which Great Britain drew from these Countries.

The question of Bank Notes against guineas is now likely to be speedily settled, not according to the theoretical reasonings of the adherents to the gold system or its opponents; but to suit the convenience of the money-jobbers, some of whom are going to quit the guinea trade, and commence wholesale dealers in paper. The people must comply, and so probably this business of two media, which has so long been carried on to the emolument of the knowing, will be likely to cease. Two additional banks are to be opened shortly in Belfast.

Tallow has lately advanced in price, up to 15s. and 16s. per stone. Candles and soap got a start fully adequate to the rise on the raw materials. But from the principle of elasticity of the human mind, many private families have made efforts to relieve themselves from this additional pressure on family expenses by substituting the use of oil for candles. Exchange has this month been nearly sta-

tionary, being for guineas in Belfast 5¾ to 6 per cent. Discount on bank notes 2½ to 2¾ per cent. Exchange in Dublin 8½ to 8¾.

Probably in our next Month's Report we shall be able to state the decision of the American Congress on the embargo. Until we hear of their proceedings we must continue in painful suspense on this subject, which now comes so closely home to us in this quarter of the empire.

We are now beginning to feel more forcibly the inconveniences of the American embargo, and the shutting up of the northern ports of Europe. Flax and cotton have advanced enormously. In consequence of which brown linens have become very dear. The prices have risen so much within these few weeks, as to make it questionable, how far it may be safe to purchase at present prices. The heavy losses sustained after the high prices in 1799 ought not to be forgotten. If linens continue to advance, they may not probably meet a ready sale, when they are brought to a white market, and some cheaper temporary substitute may be found for them in domestic economy. Linen yarn both hand-spun, and mill-spun is greatly advanced.

If the embargo is not speedily removed, and the probability is against its removal, we appear to be on the eve of an alarming crisis. Less flaxseed was sown last spring than usual. The wet summer injured the crop to a considerable degree, and prevented the saving of flaxseed. If the American embargo be continued, and the Northern ports remain shut, we can get no supply of flax to make up for last year's deficient crop, and for the increased demand from England and Scotland, for both flax and yarn to supply the importations which formerly were brought from Russia. We shall likewise be without a sufficient supply of flaxseed for next crop. These are truly alarming circumstances, and require immediate care; it behoves government, as well as those concerned in the trade, and indeed all who wish well to the peace of this country, to consider of our probable situation, if our chief manufacture should be stopped by the want of materials, and the majority of the people consequently thrown out of employment. Speculators, both in Dublin and Belfast, have been active in making large purchases of white linens. Enlarged views of public utility, should interest the community to lose no time in proclaiming the danger, and as far as their efforts can go, to endeavour to ward it off. *The orders of Council* have brought on this distressful situation, The Linen-drapers of this province, should lose no time in calling a general meeting of the trade at Armagh, or some central situation, to lay the danger which is so justly apprehended, before the King, and both houses of parliament, by suitable petitions. No palliatives will do. The stopping of the exportation of flax and yarn, from one part of the Empire to another, would be only a vexatious measure, attempting to throw the burthen off ourselves on others. Such a modification of the orders of council, as would induce the Americans to remove the embargo, is the only substantial remedy. Time presses! The ships with flaxseed must soon leave America, to be in time for our spring sowing. It is impossible to calculate on the consequences, if flaxseed do not arrive to supply the spring demand.

MEDICAL REPORT.

List of Diseases occurring in the practice of a Physician in Belfast, from October 20, till November 20.

Barometer.....highest.	30	0	Thermometer.....highest	57	0
mean	29	5	mean	46	7
lowest.	28	6	lowest.	40	9

Synochus, ...	5	A fever both of the nature of nervous and inflammatory.
Cynanche Tonsillaris, .	2	Quinsy.
Erysipelas, ...	3	Saint Anthony's fire, or rose.
Variola, ...	12	Small-pox.
Scarlatina, ...	2	Scarlet fever.
Opthalmia, ...	2	Inflammation of the eyes.
Amaurosis, ...	1	Blindness without apparent disease.
Abortus, ...	2	Abortion.
Icterus, ...	1	Jaundice.
Colica Spasmodica, . . .	2	Cholic.
Ascites, ...	1	Dropsy of the belly.
Anasarca, ...	2	General dropsy.
Pthysis Pulmonalis, . .	2	Consumption.

Asthma, ...	2	Asthma or shortness of breath.
Dyspepsia, ...	3	Indigestion.
Incubus, ...	1	Night-mare.
Asthenia, ...	4	Nervous debility.
Catarrhus, ...	3	Common cold.
Diarrhœa, ...	2	Looseness.
Hysteria, ...	1	Hysterics.
Arthrodynia, ...	3	Chronic rheumatism.
Hemiplegia, ...	1	Palsy of one side.
Epilepsia Cerebralis, . .	1	Convulsions, or falling sickness.
Herpes, ...	4	Ringworm, or tetter.
Carcinoma mammæ, . .	1	Cancerous breast.
Scrophula, ...	3	King's evil.
Syphilis, ... *Gonorrhœa*, ...	10	Venereal disease.
Morbi Infantiles, . . .	25	Febrile, and bowel and febrile complaints of children.

In looking over this, our catalogue of human woes, it will afford an ample subject for the Philosopher who wishes to investigate the causes of diseases and to trace them to their original sources. Many of them no doubt are natural and peculiar to man, but many may be with equal certainty referred to the baneful influence of habits long established, and adopted with the almost unanimous approbation of society; some of which though highly laudable in themselves when used with moderation, may, by being carried to excess, become equally obnoxious and insalutary with those which more glaringly exhibit their mischievous effects; as an instance of this it is only necessary to view a number of men, women and particularly children, released at night from a cotton factory, after a confinement of twelve or fourteen hours, with the exception of one hour for dinner; are their squalid, dejected, and sickly looks to be considered as the usual consequences of moderate labour in the open air or in a well ventilated apartment? No; they are the unerring indices of overstrained industry in an unwholesome and confined atmosphere. Mankind has been justly divided into the selfish and social, or into those whose pleasures principally arise from the gratification of their appetites, and those whose most agreeable sensations originate from their sympathizing with the feelings of others; and men in general are esteemed by their acquaintances in proportion as they may be referred to the latter class; therefore how much more praiseworthy would it be, were the cultivation of the minds as well as the preservation of the health of the working classes an object equally interesting to their employers with the accumulation of wealth. Sure I am that one time or other, perhaps, on the bed of sickness, or at the hour of death, Truth and hoary Time, that trier of all things, would impress on our minds the greatest solace under affliction, viz. the seal of self approbation.

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From October 20, till November 20.

21. The Swallows, whose numbers have been gradually decreasing, were no longer observed after this. But the common Wren, the Robin Red-breast, and the Wood-lark, continue in mild bright days to enliven the Country with their songs.

30. This being a mild calm evening, the common Bat (Vespertilio murinus) was seen flying.

Wagtails (Motacilla alba) which for some time appeared in unusual numbers, have almost all taken their departure.

2. November. The Redwing (Turdus Iliacus) appeared.

3. The Dor, or that insect vulgarly called the Bomb Clock (Scarabæus Stercorarius) flying about this evening.

5. The Field fare (Turdus pilaris) appearing with the Redwing, in much greater quantities than usual at this season.

6. Saffron (Crocus sativus) and great blue flowering Aster, (Aster grandiflorus) flowering.

8. Found in Belfast market the Dun Diver (Mergus Castor) and the Lesser Guellimot (Uria Minor) both rare birds.

14. Naked Flowering Crocus (Crocus nudiflorus) flowering

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

From October 20, *to November* 20.

The appellation of the dreary month of November, seems justly characteristic of its appearance. Dark tempestuous weather, and the vegetable ruins strewed around, present a scene, whose influence on minds naturally turned to melancholy, is often productive of fatal effects. The whistle, or the song of the Peasant is no longer heard in the fields, and man and beast seem to look forward with anxiety to the approaching season.

21st of October . . . Brilliant morning—afterwards showers.
22, ... Slight showers.
23, ... Rain.
24, ... Fine morning—very wet from three P. M.
25, ... Very wet, squally day.
26, ... Stormy night and morning—dry, bright, pleasant day.
27, ... Brilliant, pleasant day.
28, ... Brilliant, warm fore part of the day, about four P.M. rain.
29, ... Misty morning—rain, part of the forenoon.
30, ... Hoar frost, pleasant warm day.
31, ... Misty morning—afterwards a brilliant day.
1st November, . . Same.
2, ... Misty morning—dark pleasant day.
3, ... Same.
4, ... Dark, breezy day.
5, ... Slight rain.
6, ... Showers during the forenoon.
7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, . Pleasant, dark day.
13, 14, ... Bright, pleasant day.
15, ... Squally night—misty rain through the day.
16, ... Squally wet night—pleasant, dark day.
17, ... Slight rain during the night—breezy, dark day, with a trifling shower.
18, ... Rain during the night—cold dark day.
19, ... Slight snow shower during the night, and a brilliant day with some trifling showers.
20, ... Fine day until about five P. M. when rain commenced, followed by a stormy night.

About 9 P. M. of the 27th of October, observed a finely coloured Lunar bow. On the evening of the 30th, the vallies were hid by mist, while the rising ground appeared like islands in a sea. (This has been usually reckoned a prognostic of a fine day.)

The range of the barometer during this period was 10 days as high as 30 *inches*, and on the 25th of October, it was down to 28.6 *inches*.

The range of the thermometer has been principally from 40 to 46°; but on the morning of the 16th of November, it was as high as 57° and on the 19th it was as low as 33°.

The wind during this period has been observed in the Northern points 8, Southern 16, Eastern 5, and Western 6 times.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

FOR DECEMBER, 1808.

First day, the Moon passes the meridian at 30 min. past 11 o'clock, P.M. The Pleides being due north of her, distant 6°; and Aldebaran a little to the east, on the same side of the meridian; at a greater distance, we may see Bellatrix, Betelgueze and Rigel, the three bright stars in Orion; and near the horizon Sirius in the great Dog; and a little west of the meridian is Menkar in the Nose of the Whale; at 9 she was 55° 20′ from Pollux.

Fifth, She passes the meridian at 54 min. past 1, A. M. Castor and Pollux being north of her and Procyon, in the little Dog, nearly south; but all three on the east side of the meridian. On the west side we see, to the south, Sirius in the great Dog, and a little towards the west the three bright stars in Orion, and nearly in the west at the distance of 38° 21′ Aldebaran.

Tenth, She passes the meridian at 53 min. past 5 A.M. having risen about

half past 0; and at the distance of 25°, from Regulus. Denebola in the Lion's Tail, is above her to the north.

Fifteenth, She passes the meridian, at 17 min. after 11 o'clock, A.M. having risen about 7, and will set this evening at a quarter past three.

Twentieth, She sets this evening, about 8, having passed the mer. at 12 min. past 3 o'clock.

Twenty-fifth, She passes the meridian at 1 min. past 7 o'clock, P.M. a little west of the mer. we may observe Algenib and Markab in the wing of Pegasus, the former at the distance of 5°, and the latter, of 21° from the Moon, and nearly north, on the east of the meridian, at the distance of 26°, is Mirach in the girdle of Andromeda: at 9, she is 50° 37′ from Aldebaran, and 89° 19′ from the first Star of the Eagle

Thirtieth, She passes the meridian at 48 min. past 10, P.M. and at the same time Rigel in the foot of Orion, is due south from her, at the distance of 29°, and Bellatrix, and Betelgueze, in his shoulders are a little to the east of the meridian, as are also the three stars in his belt; directly north and distant 35° is Capella, the bright star in the Waggoner.

Mercury is a morning star this month, and on the 16th, passes the meridian, at 3 min. past 11, A.M.

Venus is an evening star this month, and may be seen soon after sun set, if the evening be clear. She passes our meridian on the 13th, at 48 min. past 2, P. M.

Mars is a morning star this month.

Jupiter passes our meridian on the 1st, at 38 min. past 6, and on the 25th at 3 min. past 5 P. M. having in the interim advanced about 8¼ deg. to the west.

Saturn continues very near the Sun during this month, and will not be easily seen.

Herschell passes our meridian on the 1st at 47 min. past 9 and on the 31st at 46 min. past 8 A. M. and is still too near the Sun to be easily seen.

ECLIPSES OF JUPITER'S SATELLITES.

1st SATELLITE. *Emersions.*				2d SATELLITE. *Emersions.*				3d SATELLITE.					4th SATELLITE.			
DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.		DAYS.	H.	M.	S.
2	5	41	41	3	2	41	46	2	22	55	37	Im.	12	5	22	21 Im.
4	0	10	37	6	15	59	38	3	1	58	6	E.	12	8	48	59 E.
5	18	39	42	10	5	17	29	10	2	58	29	Im.	28	23	43	45 Im.
7	13	8	38	13	18	35	19	10	5	59	58	E.	29	3	1	45 E.
9	7	37	43	17	7	53	11	17	7	1	25	Im.				
11	2	6	39	20	21	11	3	17	10	1	57	E.				
12	20	35	43	24	10	28	52	24	11	5	9	Im.				
14	15	4	39	27	23	46	45	24	14	4	41	E.				
16	9	33	41	31	13	4	37	31	15	8	8	Im.				
18	4	2	39					31	18	6	36	E.				
19	22	31	44													
21	17	0	38													
23	11	29	42													
25	5	58	37													
27	0	27	41													
28	18	56	35													
30	13	25	39													

*** *In future it is our intention to publish on the last day of each Month, and consequently our Magazines will bear that date. Our next number will be dated on the* 31*st. inst. and accompanied with a Title-page and Index to the First Volume. Hereafter, we shall give a Title-page and Index at the end of every six months. Our Subscribers may then have their option of having the Magazines for the year bound in one or two Volumes.*

Errata.....Page 255, column 2nd, 22nd line from the bottom of the page, for flower read flour.—page 247, col. 2d, line 19 from the top, for repentance read penitence.

H. B. will oblige, by mentioning whether the article, supposed to have been written by Goldsmith, was ever published.